

Lottery cash to buy Churchill papers for £12.5m



Churchill, MP: "winner of the lottery jackpot"

By Andrew Pierce, John Young and Alan Hamilton

MONEY from the National Lottery is to be used to buy Sir Winston Churchill's papers from his family for £12.5 million.

The grant from the lottery's heritage fund will enable the newly formed Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust to secure all the wartime leader's papers for the nation. The bulk of the money will go to Churchill's grandson, Winston junior, who is Conservative MP for Davey Hulme, and his great-grandsons, Randolph and John.

The collection of papers includes

practically everything Churchill wrote before 1945, including letters to his mother as a homesick schoolboy, notes on the Abdication, and wartime speeches including "We shall fight them on the beaches". Churchill College, Cambridge, will complete the collection by donating his post-war papers to the trust to create an archive valued at £35 million for the nation.

There were fears last night, however, that the deal would set a precedent for future prime ministers to sell rather than give their papers to the nation. Historians were withering in their criticism of the purchase and Labour MPs ap-

palled. Norman Stone, professor of modern history at Oxford University, said: "The sale of national assets did not claim entitlement to Churchill's State papers. 'Ordinary poor people have been spending their pounds every week on the National Lottery and for them to pay £13 million for a load of words is just nonsense.'"

John Charnley of the University of East Anglia was equally dismissive. "The second jackpot winner of the National Lottery is Winston Churchill junior. The Government should have called the bluff of the Churchills when they threatened to break up the collection and sell it abroad. These papers belonged to the State and should never have been removed by Sir Winston in the first place."

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for

Tottenham, said he would intend to table parliamentary questions on the issue, including why the Government did not claim entitlement to Churchill's State papers. "Ordinary poor people have been spending their pounds every week on the National Lottery and for them to pay £13 million for a load of words is just nonsense."

The Churchill Archive Settlement, a private family trust set up by the former Prime Minister after the Second World War, will receive £12.5 million for the prewar papers — £11.5 million from the lottery fund and the balance from a donation by the American philanthropist John

Paul Getty. The lottery will also grant the new trust £1.75 million to care for the archive.

Under the terms of the Settlement, the only beneficiaries will be Sir Winston's descendants in the male line — the 54-year-old MP and his sons, Randolph, 30 and John, 20. No money will go to Sir Winston's daughters or their families.

Peregrine Churchill, Sir Winston's 82-year-old nephew and one of the two Settlement trustees, had no regrets about selling the papers to the nation rather than donating them. "The trust had no money; like all Churchills, we were poor," he said. "Even his father, Lord Ran-

dolph, had only a small share in the Kimberley diamond mine to set against his enormous debts. It was necessary to raise money to fulfil Sir Winston's wishes." Mr Churchill expected to spend up to £5 million to maintain the archive. "The work is urgent," he said. "Much of the paper is already crumbling to dust." Another £500,000 would be used to tend Churchill's grave in Bladon, Oxfordshire.

The other trustee, the solicitor Ian Montrose, said that Churchill did not regard his papers as State property.

Lottery grants, page 6

Union members back new Clause 4

Double boost for Blair in the polls

By Peter Riddell

TONY BLAIR receives a double boost this morning as new polls put Labour in its strongest ever position ahead of next week's local elections and show that members of the transport union have defied their leadership in backing the replacement of clause four.

A new MORI poll for *The Times*, undertaken last weekend, shows not just that Labour has consolidated its big lead nationally but also that it is very well-placed amongst those saying they are certain to vote next Thursday. The Tories are suffering from the recent rows over school budgets and class sizes.

Labour now stands on 56 per cent, down a point from the end of March, compared with 26 per cent for the Tories, up a point over the month. Both ratings are in the same range as the last few months. The Liberal Democrats have improved two percentage points to 15 per cent.

Ahead of Labour's special conference on Saturday on Clause Four, a separate MORI poll for *Today* shows that members of the Transport and General Workers' Union back the new version by a 2-1 margin, in direct conflict with the decision of the union's leadership. This is a sharp setback for Bill Morris, the union's general secretary, who faces a challenge for his position later this year from Jack Dromey, one of the unions' leading allies of Mr Blair.

It will also increase pressure on the executive to rethink its stance in the key vote on Saturday. The 75-strong T & G delegation at the conference had been expected to put its 14 per cent of the total vote against Mr Blair's modernisation plans. The poll, conducted after Mr Morris refused to ballot his members,

makes clear that the block vote would be cast against the wishes of T & G members.

Labour has in the past performed below its national ratings in local elections, and MORI has asked special questions for *The Times* this month about how people will vote in contests which cover all England outside London, and Wales. Of the 48 per cent saying they are absolutely certain to vote, 55 per cent say they will vote Labour, a 16-point rise on 1991, when the same seats were last fought. Tory support is 16 points down from 1991, at 22 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats are set to perform better than their recent national poll ratings of 15 per cent or less, as 18 per cent say they will vote for them next Thursday. This is down just a point on 1991.

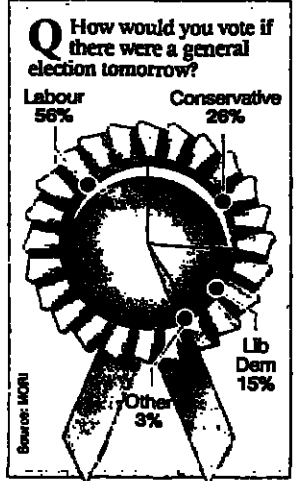
The poll also shows increased concern about education. Not only has there been a sharp increase in the past month in the number mentioning education as among the most important issues facing Britain today, but there has been a rise from 36 per cent to 47 since 1991 in the proportion of people saying education will be important in deciding their vote. It has become the most significant vote-determining issue. The health service and the former poll tax were the most important four years ago.

There is little comfort for John Major in the polls apart from signs that support for the Tories seems to have levelled off since Christmas in the 24 to 26 per cent range. Less than one in ten are satisfied with how the Government is running the country, including only 28 per cent of Tory supporters. More than four-fifths of the public, and three-fifths of Tories, are dissatisfied.

A mere 22 per cent say they are satisfied with the way Mr Major is doing his job, with over two-thirds dissatisfied. Only just over a half of Tories approve his performance, with two-fifths disapproving. Mr Blair continues to enjoy the highest ratings of any party leader, though the level of public satisfaction with his performance has dropped slightly from last month. Nearly half of the public are satisfied with his performance as Labour leader, with a quarter dissatisfied.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,937 adults at 149 ward sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on April 21 to 24. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (8 per cent), or refuse to name a party (2 per cent).

Commentary, and Ballot towns, page 8

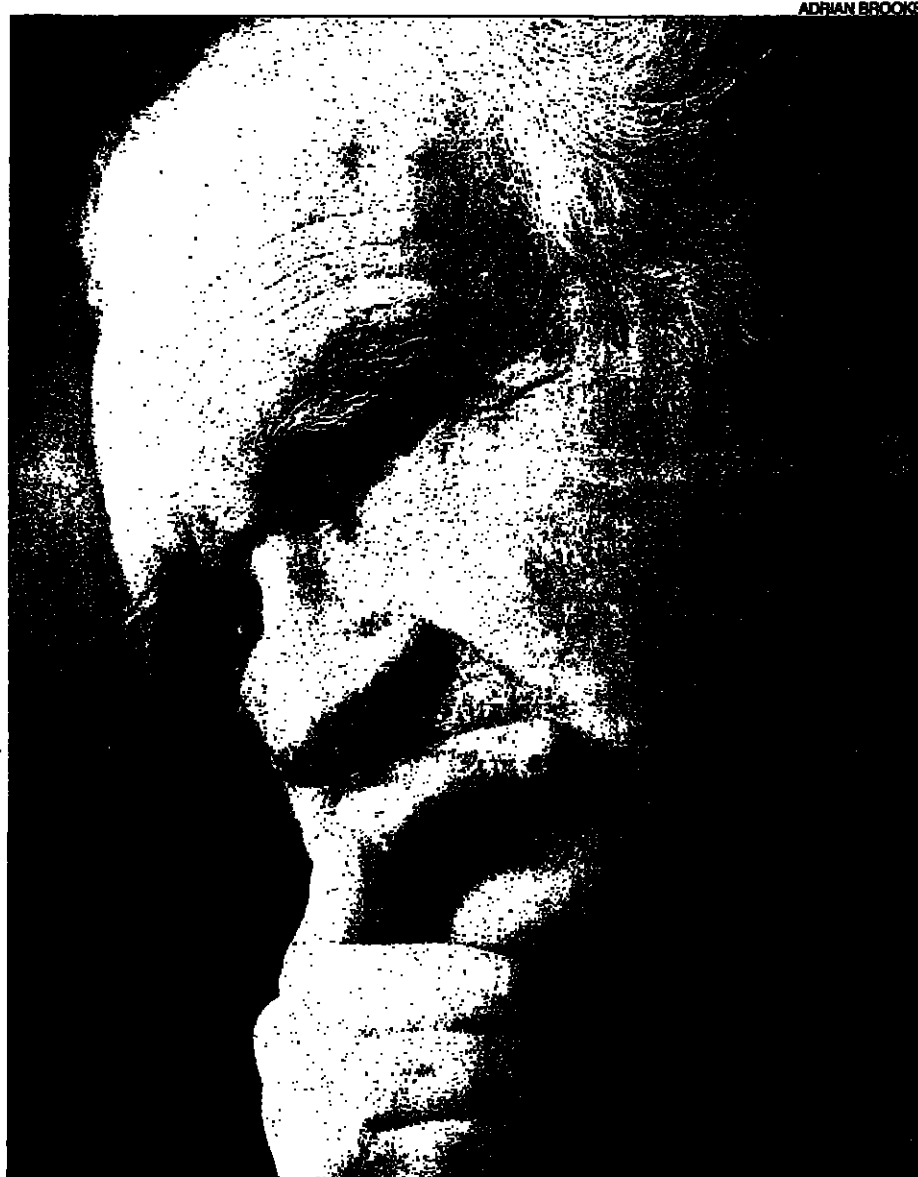


Exam pass rates under examination

Government advisers are to inquire into GCSE and A level standards after seven successive rises in pass rates. Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, told MPs: "It is something that ought to be investigated. If an A doesn't mean what an A meant 10 or 30 years ago, there's a problem about what the education system is trying to achieve."

Clarke pledge on interest rates

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has no intention of raising interest rates purely to support sterling. He said in Washington rates would be set by the need to hit inflation targets: the pound was only one of a range of indicators. Page 23



Lord Mackay, who is to have ministerial control of the new marriage guidance programme

The minister for marriage

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is expected to announce today that he will become "minister for marriage" as he unveils radical proposals for a "no-fault" divorce system.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern is to add policy and funding of the £16 million marriage guidance programme — at present run by the Home Office — to his responsibilities for divorce and family law.

A White Paper today will herald no-fault divorce after 12 months. But in an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Lord Mackay made clear that the aim of the White Paper is as much about "saving saveable marriages" as easing the "trauma and bitterness" of divorce. "I want to do

everything I possibly can to save saveable marriages," he said, and "everything possible to provide good relations between parents who are being divorced and their children, if the breakdown of the marriage is irretrievable."

Lord Mackay, a committed Christian and married for 37 years, said: "I do believe that mediation is extremely important as a way of couples facing up to the problems that their marriage has produced; that it is vitally important for people to get information at the stage of contemplating divorce about all the services available to them — marriage guidance, help for reconciliation and the other services."

Mediation, he added, enabled people to sort out their affairs together and to "take control of their lives" without

lawyers being unnecessarily involved.

The Lord Chancellor said that where marriages have broken down irretrievably, "spouses will be required to face a period of due deliberation, in both what has happened in the past and what responsibilities arising out of that will be for the future, before they go forward for an actual divorce." The reforms, he hoped, would eliminate "as far as possible, unnecessary harm resulting from the divorce to the relationship between parents and children".

The White Paper proposals will replace the present "fault-based" system of divorce which underpins many of the present lengthy and bitter court-based disputes.

Janet Daley, page 14

Mackay to stem haemorrhage of legal aid to rich

By Our Legal Correspondent

TOUGH measures were outlined yesterday to plug loopholes enabling people who enjoy affluent lifestyles and lavish homes to claim legal aid and run up huge bills for costly court actions.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said he proposed that a special investigation unit be set up under the Legal Aid Board to assess claims for legal aid in both civil and criminal cases where a person's means are "unusually complex".

He said this would take into account the assets of friends, relatives and children, where "these appear to be providing a significant material advantage to the claimant".

Where people on legal aid fail to declare their assets, the Lord Chancellor said, he was taking new powers transferring ownership of any undeclared assets to the legal aid authorities, enabling them to recoup their costs.

A new limit of £100,000 is also to be placed on the value of houses and mortgages which can be disregarded when officials assess someone's eligibility for legal aid. At present this is not taken into account, no matter how valuable the property. Lord

Mackay added that he also intended to set a cap on how much people can offset mortgage payments against their income.

A further measure to be considered would empower trial judges to release financial details of a defendant. This might be done where such details were at odds with what the defendant was alleging were his financial circumstances.

The measures follow concern that apparently rich individuals have been granted thousands of pounds worth of legal aid, while others less well off have been denied such financial help. In the fraud case involving Ian and Kevin Maxwell, a total of £4 million in legal aid has so far been paid to defence lawyers.

But there has been a series of other high-profile legal aid cases, including that of Asil Nadir, the former chairman of Polly Peck, Gordon Foxley, the retired civil servant, and Jawad Hashim, former aide to Saddam Hussein, which have aroused concern on how the £1 billion legal aid bill is being spent.

However, Lord Mackay, who announced the measures

Continued on page 2, col 6

Scratch cards to change

By Lin Jenkins

THE National Lottery watchdog is to demand changes to instant cash scratch cards to reduce the chances of fraud.

The move comes as three more retailers accused of tampering with scratch cards and swindling customers out of the chance of winning were dismissed by the organisers, Camelot.

As the organisation sought to restore public confidence in the game, Peter Davis, director general of the Office of the National Lottery, demanded that the cards should include a warning that they would be invalid if latex covering security code numbers in the bottom right hand corners was tampered with.

Mr Davis, 52, an accountant, was appointed regulator of the National Lottery in 1993 when he was deputy chairman

of Abbey National and chairman of the Board for Chartered Accountants in Business.

"We are waiting for a full report before making any comment on the alleged frauds, but the fact that the problem was found highlights that the system is working," said a spokeswoman. "Scratch cards are going to be amended."

Undercover investigators from Camelot visited the three shops in Liverpool, London and Essex, after customers complained. Checks were also made by the organisers' central computer, which identified "irregularities" in the sale of the cards.

Another outlet, also in Liverpool, has been told to suspend sales pending further investigation. On Monday, Camelot confiscated equipment from a

newsagent in Salisbury after investigating allegations that Dilip Patel had tampered with cards and had sold only non-winning small prizes. He is said to have told customers who complained that his son had been playing with them.

A report on the findings of each investigation will be forwarded to the local police.

Neil Dickens, Camelot's security director, said: "These incidents are isolated ones. We will continue to deal swiftly and severely with any retailer who behaves dishonestly." He warned customers to check that cards had not been defaced.

Vandals have broken the windscreen of Mr Patel's car and a shutter on his shop has been defaced, police said yesterday.

FILMS TODAY

Brad Pitt in *Legends of the Fall* page 31

Films of the week appear every Thursday PLUS Books, Body and Mind, Accountancy, and Travel News, William Rees-Mogg and Janet Daley

Tomorrow: the Valerie Grove interview, Caitlin Moran on modern music, and Infotech

FOUR WEDDINGS, FIVE BAFTAS



ONLY 5 MORE DAYS!

WITHDRAWN FROM SALE AFTER APRIL 30TH

PolyGram Video

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Scotching the myth of the victim culture

AN OFFICIAL party of Ukrainians came to Parliament to watch Scottish Questions yesterday. They were welcome to it.

The Ukrainians entered the Strangers' Gallery wearing headphones for translation. Unfortunately these are never provided for English journalists. Yet even when an Englishman can understand what a Scottish MP has said, it is impossible to know what he means. Or, rather, how far he means it.

At Scottish Questions a nation takes shape where there is no setback, only catastrophe; no sadness, only despair; no error, only blunder; no hunger, only starvation; no unfairness, only

monstrous injustice crying out to Heaven itself for redress while all the angels weep. And it is always England's fault.

Every huge hike is a nigardly increase, every small addition a vicious cut, every slight pause a wicked delay — and every culprit an Englishman. Scottish women MPs have one voice mode: that of an aggrieved wife storming into the pub to dump her spouse's cold dinner on the bar. Labour spokeswoman Maria Fyfe achieves a vocal pitch audible only to dogs. The men speak as though squaring for a fight. You simply cannot tell when they mean it and when they don't. Take yesterday. Junior



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton talked of a 53 per cent real-terms increase in NHS spending in Scotland, making per capita spending there higher than in England. But Brian Donohoe (Lab, Cunningham) spoke of a Tory Government causing the deaths of babies, while John McAllion (Lab, Dundee) pictured for us "the sick, shuffling across the country in search of beds".

There was certainly no prospect of them travelling

by rail, for, as Henry McLeish (Lab, Fife Central) explained, Westminster had launched "an assault on the railways in the Highlands". "Spineless ministers" had sold the region short.

Scottish Secretary Ian Lang spoke of a doubling of university student numbers in Scotland, with a greater proportion in higher education than in England. But Helen Liddell (Lab, Monklands E) said a Government "determined to sell out Scotland's educational and social

future" had "devastated" education. To regular observers of the occasion, all this was routine. But yesterday did mark one great leap forward for the victim culture which it is Scottish politicians' role to foster. At a stroke, Labour and SNP policy has been yanked from wanting to abolish the nuclear generation of electricity in Scotland, to demanding to keep it — because England wants to take it away. We do not jest. Last week it was SNP policy to scrap Scottish nuclear power fast, and Labour policy to phase it out over time. On Monday it emerged that the Tories plan to merge Scottish Nuclear into Nuclear Electric (the English arm) then priva-

tise both. Yesterday MPs of both parties united to protest that England wants to take — and Scotland must keep — what last week both their parties were saying Scotland did not want anyway.

Thus Scotland's reactors have been transformed from a smouldering menace to a pearl without price. Anything the Sassenachs want must be Scotland's birthright.

Here must lie the last hope for a United Kingdom. Instead of denying devolution to Scotland, England should insist on it. The Scots would smell a rat. Within hours they would be marching on London, yelling for the Union. Such is the power of Celtic demonism.

Critics recall Prime Minister's contribution to 'monolithic' architecture

Major accused of hypocrisy after attack on housing

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR pledged a fresh assault yesterday on the "concrete wastelands" of the inner cities, only to find himself accused of being the political architect of the most hideous and crime-ridden housing estates.

In a speech promising renewed effort to tackle urban decay, the Prime Minister drew heavily on his boyhood in Brixton, south London, as he condemned the past fashion for bulldozing rows of terraced streets and rehousing the inhabitants in "soulless" tower blocks. These "monuments to the failed history of socialist planning" had wrecked too many young lives, he said.

But Labour accused him of "gross hypocrisy" for overlooking the fact that as a Lambeth councillor 25 years ago he twice voted to give approval for the kind of "monstrosities" he now deplored.

Tory Party officials countered by saying that the projects had gone through their planning stage and contracts had been awarded before Mr Major was elected to the council in 1968. Construction had taken place while Mr Major had been chairman of the housing committee and he had not opposed the schemes. But it would have been expensive to cancel them at such a late stage. "He cannot be held responsible for a programme he inherited," an aide said.

The Prime Minister, who later visited an urban regeneration project in Hackney, east London, said that the Government was spending large sums on improving 500 of the



Dobson: recalled rebuke

worst estates and boosting educational and job opportunities.

He also foreshadowed the housing White Paper, expected in the summer, in which a million housing association tenants would be granted the right to buy their homes at a big discount and moves would be made to involve the private sector in renovating slum estates.

"I grew up among 1950s slums; I now want to end the monstrosities that too often replaced them..." the Prime Minister told a Social Market Foundation conference in London on the future of cities.

"I saw the mistakes that were made by politicians believing that they could do it all: the ghetto estates, the squalid opportunities. These mistakes stemmed from an essentially socialist approach: top-down planning; welfarism rather than opportunity; public sector provision rather than indi-

vidual choice; working against, not with, the market."

However, the Prime Minister's attempt to extract political capital from the municipal horrors of the 1960s and 1970s was in danger of backfiring last night. Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said that in 1970, as vice-chairman of Lambeth council's housing committee, Mr Major voted to build the Barrier Block estate along Coldharbour Lane, ruining the area in which he had grown up. The 693-home estate, built at a cost of £5 million, has been described by the housing charity Shelter as "one of the ugliest buildings in London, a huge monolith".

The previous year, Mr Major had given the go-ahead for the 913-home Stockwell Park estate, which was one of the Metropolitan Police's "top three not-risk estates".

Mr Dobson added to the Prime Minister's discomfort by recalling that in his town hall days, Mr Major rebuked tenants for painting their doorways without consulting the council. They were told to remove the paint.

Mr Major also sent two of the council's senior officials on an expenses-paid tour of housing developments in Warsaw and Cracow in Poland.

Nick Raynsford, Labour's spokesman on housing, said that mistakes over housing policy were made by all parties in the 1960s and 1970s and it was hypocritical of Mr Major to try to pin the blame on Labour given his own track record in Lambeth.

Mr Raynsford added that the Prime Minister's pledges rang hollow given that spending on public housing had been halved since 1979.



John Major with David Thompson, project director of the estates initiative

Town's battle of election insults goes to court

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A COURT will be asked today to intervene in the bitter and occasionally farcical local election battle between Labour councillors in Corby, Northamptonshire. An application has been made for an injunction banning all election leaflets distributed by the official Labour Party directed against a rival Labour group contesting 23 of the town's 27 seats.

If the application is successful, Northampton County Court will be asked to order the Labour Party to distribute new leaflets to all the houses that have already received those claimed to be libellous. The row began when 11 Labour councillors, including the mayor, the group leader, his deputy, and the chairmen of all the major

committees were deselected by the party in February after allegations that they claimed large expenses and travelled the town purportedly to promote the town.

After their deselection they formed "Corby First Labour" and have recruited new members to contest most of the town's seats in next month's elections.

The public stinging match has included an invoice for £500 being sent by the official party to Corby First candidates for using the word "Labour". Both parties have hired a shop facing each other across the town's main shopping precinct and plastered posters and insults about rival candidates in the windows.

"We see these people as a threat to Corby's future..." says a notice in the deselected councillors' shop. "These are rag, tag and bobtail members who have

run away from the official party..." reads the rival pamphlet in the window of the "Official Labour Party".

The constituency secretary, Sandy Feather, son of the former TUC general secretary, Vic Feather, is opposing the deselected councillors. "They never did anything illegal, but their behaviour leaves a lot to be desired in terms of publicly elected Labour office holders."

Peter McGowan, the deselected deputy leader and a councillor for 25 years, said: "This has been nothing but a process of character assassination by innuendo. We were never given any specific charges of what we were supposed to have done, so we refused to be hauled before a kangaroo court and chucked out."

Ballet town, page 8



Peter McGowan: claims character assassination

Million-pound takeaway hits government offices

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds of goods are being stolen from government offices. They range from chainsaws to toasters, an ornamental bronze crocodile to a Christmas tree, and even a complete greenhouse.

The value of missing items from mid-1993 to mid-1994 was more than £832,000; losses for this year already exceed £1 million, and several departments have still to be audited. The catalogue of theft has been uncovered by Lord Braine of Wheatley, who has questioned every government department about theft over the past two years.

The Department of Transport has been hardest hit with 1,050 cases of theft, arson or

sabotage in two years. Eleven computers, seven fax machines, two kettles, a motor-cycle and two refrigerators went missing at a cost of £68,014 in 1993. Last year it was even more careless, losing 97 computers worth £214,500 and a new car, which helped to push up the total to £204,982.

The Foreign Office boasts the most discerning thieves, losing two antique tables last year. The Treasury has managed to lose least, mislaying only a painting, and that was on loan.

Customs and Excise has been relieved of 129 computers costing £188,700. The Department of Employment's entire switchboard disappeared at a cost of £2,000; it also lost

microwave ovens, nearly a hundred cameras and a steam cleaner.

The Inland Revenue has also suffered. In one day it lost 19 printers, nine personal computers, a colour television, a video recorder, four colour monitors, an answerphone, two dictaphones, a set of manuals and software disks and cash worth £130. Its total losses in 1994 came to £335,899.

The Welsh Office has lost the oldest assortment: the flag from Cricketh Castle, an ornamental bronze frog and crocodile, a greenhouse and trunk road drainage gully worth £1,338. Its tally came to £3,535. A spokesman said nobody liked the bronzes.

Lloyd's will not go bust, MPs told

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of Lloyd's last night assured MPs that the stricken insurance market would not go out of business this year. David Rowland said that the huge losses incurred by the 308-year-old market would not mean it falling its annual solvency test.

Mr Rowland's hurriedly arranged appearance before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee was marked by a boycott by two prominent MPs protesting at the unusual decision to question senior Lloyd's officials in secret.

Nicholas Budgen, Conservative, and Brian Sedgmore, Labour, refused to take part in the questioning

of Mr Rowland and Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, over weekend reports that the insurance market was on the verge of collapse.

The two executives, who have already given evidence in public to the Commons inquiry into Lloyd's, were allowed to appear in private because of sensitivity over the effect of rumours on jobs. They vigorously denied the reports.

The two MPs attacked the decision to hold a secret meeting as a precedent that could lead to Commons inquiries barring the public. Sir Tom Arnold, the committee's Tory chairman, said the evidence would be published in due course.

Crackdown on legal aid

Continued from page 1
in a Lords written reply, said he had rejected proposals to limit legal aid for foreigners litigating in the English courts on nationality grounds.

The overwhelming view of people responding to his proposals, he said, was that "it would not be right to impose nationality restrictions on the availability of either criminal or civil legal aid".

The Maxwell brothers' trial, due to start at the end of next month, is expected to be one of the most expensive ever, and is eventually expected to cost up to £15 million in legal aid and other public funds.

The moves follow a consultation process launched at the end of last year. The Bar Council said last night it welcomed all but one of the five main proposals put forward by the Lord Chancellor. A spokesman said they were concerned that discretionary

powers would be given to judges to assess the assets of friends, relatives and children.

"This could introduce an element of subjectivity into an already complex issue," a spokesman said. "Judges might be able to make an assessment just on the kind of suit or the defendant is wearing."

The Law Society welcomed the closure of loopholes which have enabled "a few apparently wealthy people to obtain legal aid".

Fifty parties have so far responded to a consultation paper issued last December by Lord Mackay. He said yesterday: "I intend that a special investigation unit should be established to handle means assessment where the applicant's financial circumstances are unusually complex."

He said he was persuaded by the weight of responses that the other proposals raised in

the consultation paper should not be followed up.

On the question of civil legal aid going to people of foreign nationality litigating in the English courts, Lord Mackay said: "The overwhelming weight of the responses supported the view expressed in the consultation paper that it would not be right to impose nationality restrictions on the availability of either criminal or civil legal aid. I therefore propose to make no change in the present arrangements."

Assets held abroad by those applying for legal aid in this country would continue to be taken into account in the means assessment process. He added: "I intend to examine further the practical implications of the regulations allowing the trial judge in criminal cases to release details of the statement of means of an applicant for legal aid in specific circumstances."

Prison chief put on monthly contract

The Director-General of the Prison Service has in effect been put on probation by Michael Howard in the wake of the escapes from two top-security prisons in England and Wales. Derek Lewis has had his contract extended until April next year, but after that will serve on a month-by-month basis. It is likely that Mr Lewis will remain as head of the service until at least April 1997. Ministers would be unwilling to entertain a political furor which might result if they were to give him a pay-off for ending his contract.

The Prison Officers' Association said the revised contract was an extraordinary way to deal with the head of the service and that Mr Howard had neither backed nor sacked Mr Lewis, the former television executive appointed by Kenneth Clarke to run the 133 jails in England and Wales.

Leeson extradition request

Singapore has made a formal request to the German Foreign Ministry for the extradition of Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader who allegedly caused the collapse of the bank in February. Mr Leeson, 28, who has been in prison in Frankfurt since March, has said he would prefer to face trial in Britain and is fighting the extradition on human rights grounds. The Frankfurt regional appeals court will rule on whether the extradition request is legal.

Executive pay defended

Lord Young of Graffham, the former Tory Cabinet Minister who earns £948,000 a year as executive chairman of Cable and Wireless, yesterday retaliated against "left-wing" attacks on the privatised industries over alleged boardroom greed. Lord Young, President of the Institute of Directors, told its annual convention in London that enterprise was the legitimate desire to better your lot, not greed. If enterprise was forgotten, the country would be doomed to decades of decline, he said.

Embassy bombing trial

A man and a woman accused of plotting to bomb the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish centre in London were committed for trial yesterday. Javed Mahmood Botmeh, 27, of Bloomsbury, central London, and Nadia Zekra, 48, of west Kensington, were remanded in custody by Belmarsh magistrates. The embassy, in Kensington Palace Gardens, and Balfour House, north Finchley, were bombed last July. A third defendant, Samar Alam, 29, of south Kensington, has also been charged.

Parkinson's treatment

The case of a 59-year-old man with Parkinson's disease, who had tissue from seven foetuses transplanted into his brain, has shown that such transplants may herald a cure for the disease. Within three months the man had much improved control of his movements. The case, from Chicago, is reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which says that it is the "clearest demonstration to date" that transplants of foetal brain tissue can survive and grow.

Fire warning ignored

Norwich Library was warned of dangerous electrical wiring four days before it was destroyed in a £4 million fire last August, with the loss of thousands of books and irreplaceable documents. A report says that an electrician examining ways to improve lighting found that crumbling insulation round a spotlight cable behind bookcases had been amateurishly repaired with plastic tape. He told staff but no immediate action was taken. A coronary inquiry is to be held.

Child sex case dropped

The Crown Prosecution Service has dropped charges of child sex abuse against Maxine Handley, 34, the mother of Daniel, nine, from Beckton, east London, believed murdered by paedophiles. Charges against Alexander Joseph, 21, her boyfriend, have also been dropped. The CPS said yesterday that the allegations of gross indecency with an unrelated child, and of actual bodily harm by Mr Joseph, would not be pursued "on public interest grounds".

Horn blower fined

A geology student at Cambridge has become one of the first people to be convicted under the Criminal Justice Act for disrupting a funeral. Tim Spencer, 20, the son of a retired church minister, was fined £200 and bound over to keep the peace by magistrates in Corby, Northamptonshire, for blowing a hunting horn on a public footpath. He was convicted under a new offence of aggravated trespass. He had denied intent to intimidate hunt members.

Drugs police arrest five

Police have arrested five men after a high-profile campaign against drug dealing in Paisley, near Glasgow, where two men have been shot dead and others badly injured in drugs-related incidents. Gerry Docherty, 35, and Robert Pickett, 30, appeared in Paisley Sheriff's Court yesterday afternoon charged with threatening, menacing and intimidating behaviour. Three other men, Stewart Gillespie, William Gillespie and Steven Macnamara, are expected to appear in court today.

School bans VE-Day

A Church of England primary school in Southampton is to stage a Peace Party instead of a VE-Day celebration because a third of the pupils are from ethnic minorities and the headmistress does not want to offend her. German music mistress, Diane Holley, headmistress of St Mary's School, has also banned the Union flag. Peter Viggers, Tory MP for Gosport, said: "They wouldn't be having a peace party if we hadn't defeated the Germans."

Silent tribute, page 6

Girls' school in police attacks g

Lost backpack organises ju

SATURDAY IN THE

Summer start

CAR

WEEKEND

Girls' school calls in police after fax attacks governors

By Ben Preston
education correspondent

HARROGATE Ladies' College called in the police yesterday to investigate an anonymous fax blaming its governors for an alleged decline in academic standards and calling on them to emulate the sudden resignations of the principal and their chairman.

The independent girls' school in North Yorkshire described the fax, sent to dozens of national and local newspapers, radio and television stations, as malicious. It demanded that the remaining 11 governors follow the example of Jennifer Smith and Colonel Gerald Leech, who resigned in the Easter holiday.

Mrs Smith took charge 19 months ago of the £8,600-a-year college, founded in 1993 with the motto *Industria, Fide, Pietate* (Work, Faith, Humility). Her decision followed a protest meeting of more than 200 parents at a Harrogate hotel that decided to launch a letter-writing campaign detailing their misgivings about the school's direction.

The fax, which had no sender's address or fax number, claimed that Mrs Smith was being made a scapegoat. It blamed the governors for a fall in the school's performance and called on them to make way for younger people more in tune with parents and girls. It also criticised spending on a new sixth-form boarding house and questioned an alleged relaxation in entry requirements, concluding:



Smith: resigned at Easter

"Fifteen years ago this school was revered nationally — now some talk of the school closing within five years if the decline is not rapidly arrested."

Mrs Smith, 45, arrived with a reputation for dynamism but it is understood that she faced opposition from some staff. Discontent spread among parents paying £8,655 for boarders and £5,820 for day pupils after A-level results deteriorated last summer. Girls gained an average of two Cs and a D, half a grade below the scores in 1993. The fax alleged that Mrs Smith had been carrying out the governors' wishes but said this had left her "previously untarnished career in tatters".

The college, which has 215 boarders and 136 day pupils, said in a statement distributed by a public relations firm: "This fax contains material which is false and defamatory and we are taking legal advice

in this connection. It is considered that the distribution of this defamatory material has been carried out with malicious intent."

The college said that Colonel Leech, a governor for 18 years and chairman for the past six, had decided to confirm his intention to resign to allow any necessary reorganisation. "Colonel Leech had intimated some months ago to his colleagues that following his relocation to the South Coast to live, he would be retiring from the board."

Mrs Smith, who continues to live in the principal's house in the grounds, was unavailable for comment yesterday. Her deputy, Geoffrey Hazell, has taken temporary charge. Teachers said they had been ordered not to talk publicly about events.

Mrs Smith, who is married with a daughter, is a physics teacher and former deputy head of West Kirby Grammar School for Girls. Before moving to Harrogate Ladies' College, which she described as "my greatest challenge yet", she took a four-month sabbatical during which she skied down mountains in Russia, climbed two mountains in America and spent four days in a Yukon wilderness.

An independent girls' boarding school in Norfolk yesterday blamed falling rolls for its decision to close in July. Runtun and Sutherland School in West Runtun, which charges more than £10,000 a year, said that parents struggling after the recession were switching to state rivals.



The killer whale beached again yesterday at Pegwell Bay, Kent. She had head injuries and was too weak to survive another rescue attempt

Whale put down after rescue attempts fail

By TIM JONES AND NICK NUTTALL

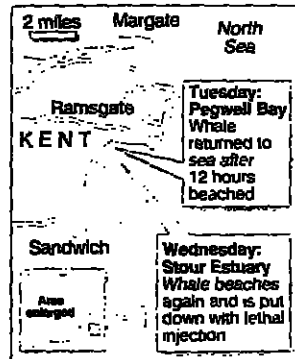
THE killer whale that twice beached herself on the Kent coast was put out of her misery yesterday with a lethal injection after all rescue attempts failed. The 18ft orca was found stranded and in distress on mudflats near Sandwich with head injuries yesterday morning. She was just three miles from Pegwell Bay where she had first beached on Tuesday. As she became visibly weaker, the young female was given a huge and lethal injection of the drug Immobilon. Helen McLachlan of the RSPCA, and

Ian Robinson, a whale rehabilitation expert from the Norfolk Wildlife Hospital, gave approval for the injection after it was realised that the whale's lungs were filling with water.

She was discovered by a man walking his dog and he alerted local authorities and wildlife experts. One of the first on the scene was Jeremy Stainesfield, a local vet. He said: "She was obviously very weak and beyond hope of rescue. It was a terrible shame to end her life but I had no option. Her little squeaks were heartrending." Gavin Paslow, of British Marine Divers Rescue, said: "After all

our efforts and the thrill of taking her to the open sea we felt empty when she beached again."

Dr Margaret Klinowska of Cambridge University, a leading authority on marine mammals, said yesterday that the whale may have smashed into the coast because of an unusual magnetic field. She believes that whales harness the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate across the oceans but in some places the fields, which normally run parallel to the coast, instead run onshore or into shallow bays, causing whales to injure and strand themselves.



Lost backpacker's father organises jungle search

By EMMA WILKINS

THE father of a British backpacker missing in the Sumatran jungle for six weeks has flown to Indonesia to persuade local officials to resume air searches for his son.

William Roper, 61, from Bognor Regis, West Sussex, hired a team of professional trackers when the official search for his son Darren, 24, was called off last week because of storms.

He and his wife Celia hope the Government in Jakarta will provide a light aeroplane tomorrow to fly over Mount Merapi, an active volcano on Sumatra, where their son was last seen. Mrs Roper said yesterday: "We are not giving up hope, even though it is difficult to survive after six weeks. The only way I can cope is to imagine that he has been found by natives and is being looked after somewhere in the jungle."

"My husband has reacted differently: he wakes up in the night shaking and having nightmares that Darren is still out there and lost."

Mr Roper has hired 11 professional scouts, 24 local men and five students. The cost of flights, food and supplies will be about £20,000, which has been lent by a



Darren Roper: missing

friend of the family in England.

Darren disappeared on March 18 after leaving his hotel in Sumatra for a climbing expedition with a friend, Edward Williams. The pair became separated in dense jungle but Mr Williams was found after ten days suffering from severe dehydration and exhaustion.

Mrs Roper received a letter from her son days after the Foreign Office had notified the family of his disappearance. "It was terribly upsetting to get the letter after we knew he had gone missing. He must have posted it before he set

off," Mrs Roper said. "But it was also reassuring because he said he had been spending a lot of time in the jungle, so he obviously knows it well."

Mr Roper's brother, Chris, 32, has already spent three weeks searching the jungle. The hired scouts are split into five teams, each with radios, tents, climbing equipment, food and supplies. Mr Roper, a maintenance engineer with a machinery firm, said: "I am sure my son is alive. He is a sensible lad. He is near water and he will wait."

The family has been touched by the generosity of friends and neighbours, who have been holding sponsored walks and discos to help to raise funds. "There is so much good in people, which comes out at times like this," Mrs Roper said. "We would have found it very difficult to fund the trip without support."

Darren went to Sumatra last year for two months, and on his return to England took a job in a factory to save for another trip to the Far East. After leaving England in February, he travelled through Thailand before entering Sumatra.

The Indonesian Embassy said the Government in Jakarta was doing everything possible to find Mr Roper.

Police grab fake notes with £18m face value

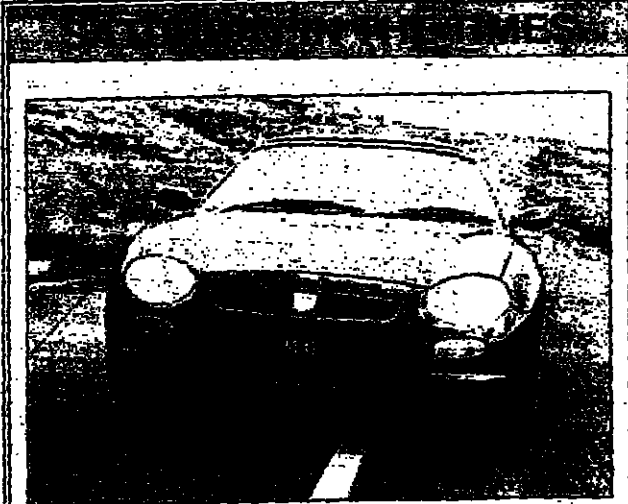
COUNTERFEIT banknotes with a face value of more than £18 million, £12 million of it in sterling, were seized by police when they raided a lock-up garage yesterday. It was the biggest single seizure of fake sterling.

A team of five detectives from the South East Regional Crime Squad discovered eight large boxes packed with counterfeit cash, including fake £50 notes and \$100 bills, at the garage in Bow, east London.

Police believe the fake cash was being stored ready for distribution and are confident they have smashed a counterfeit operation that has been running for at least two years. A spokeswoman said: "It is very good news that we were able to keep this fake money off the streets before it got into circulation."

Police are appealing for information about the garage, which was being examined by officers from the National Criminal Intelligence Service and forensic scientists.

The seizure equals the total amount taken by police across the country in 1993 and is treble the 1992 total.



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MFI

More Furniture Ideas

The re-designed Victoria coach station put more people on the buses.



Victoria Coach Station used to make passengers wish they'd stayed at home.

It was drab, run-down and dirty.

But it was a case of all change in 1991 when London Transport took over and appointed the Jenkins Group to refurbish the coach station.

The transformation of the building was of Jelby and Hyde proportions.

The newly designed terminal had airport style gates and information systems, improved seating, lighting and better air quality.

But the new station didn't just pick up design awards. It picked up a lot more passengers.

Since the overhaul there has been a 120% increase in operators using the station, ticket sales have taken off and staff resignations have fallen by 81%.

To discover what design could do for your company call 01245 491 717 for your copy of the new journal, 'Design', out 1st May.

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Birt blamed for failing to curb BBC big spenders

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC managers were blamed yesterday for causing the corporation's cash crisis by allowing the overproduction of programmes costing millions of pounds.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former ICI chairman, who brought the secrets of crisis management to people's living rooms with his BBC television series, *Troubleshooter*, said that introducing market forces at the BBC had backfired because they had not been accompanied by proper cash controls.

Programme makers had reduced their costs by providing more shows for the same amount of money but they had not been forced to work within proper budgets. As a result the BBC had a mountain of unscreened programmes and had been forced to impose an indefinite ban on new programme commissions.

"Ultimately the buck has to stop with John Birt [the BBC director-general]," Sir John said. "He cannot duck the blame. It is his responsibility to pull everything together, although the management committee must also share some of the responsibility."

The next series of Sir John's own programme has been affected by the cash crisis. BBC2 has brought forward the screening of the four-part

Troubleshooter. Returns to help to eliminate the channel's £16 million backlog of unscreened programmes.

Sir John said that the corporation had not been run like "a normal business" and remedial action was urgently needed. "They have gone in for cost analysis instead of making people work within a cash and production budget."

The core of the problem was the BBC's promise to the Government to eliminate its £200 million borrowing allowance by the end of next year. To achieve this it needed to maximise its capital assets, Sir John said.

The BBC should be exploring the possibility of selling its studios and administrative buildings and leasing them.



Sir John: sell studios

back. It could also sell its training centre at Woodmorton Hall, Evesham, which it is turning into a commercial conference venue at a cost of £3.5 million.

Instead of sacking programme makers, who were vital to the corporation's core activities, the BBC should reduce its number of accountants and administrators. "They have done a valiant job of reducing staff in the past few years, but the management is still top-heavy."

Sir John suggested that the BBC take out short-term bank loans against future income from programme sales. "There would be a queue of banks from here to Calais ready to provide money to an organisation as respectable as the BBC on this basis."

The BBC could try to raise more revenue by increasing programme sales. That could be achieved by cutting prices.

Sir John's unsolicited advice may come as a shock to the BBC management, which is meeting this week to decide the extent of any programme cuts and job losses that may be needed to solve the cash crisis. Programme areas particularly vulnerable are music and arts, science and features, and one-off plays.

Television, page 43

Dorrell rejects Channel 5 plea

THE Government yesterday rejected a call from Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, for quick legislation to stop Rupert Murdoch gaining a stake in Channel 5.

Mr Grade said the Government could urgently pass a one-line Bill giving the Independent Television Commission discretion to ignore the highest bid in awarding the Channel 5 licence.

Mr Murdoch, chairman of News International, said his

subsidiary Times Newspaper Holdings Ltd, and a director on the board of BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, is expected to bid for the licence.

Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, said: "The Broadcasting Act of 1990 sets in place a series of tough regulatory provisions—many people argue too tough—on the expansion of broadcasting businesses." He agreed they needed to be reviewed, but "a

one clause Bill at a week's notice" was not the answer.

A consortium led by Mirror Group has pulled out of the bidding for the new channel. And Granada Group said it still had not made up its mind whether to join the group that includes BSkyB.

The other consortia submitting bids are headed by Pearson and Richard Branson's Virgin empire.

Rugby league, page 42



A head for safety: Jenny Bacon on her way to work

Woman pedals her way past power dressers in Whitehall

By ANDREW PIERCE

JENNY BACON, who cycles to work, eschews power dressing, and enjoys a pint of beer in her local pub, is to join the elite group of three women civil servants who hold the rank of Permanent Secretary.

Miss Bacon, 50, is to be the next director-general of the Health and Safety Executive, which has 4,700 staff, a budget of £190 million and is responsible for health and safety at work.

Her appointment, announced yesterday, is timely. Last month was the tenth anniversary of the Government's equal opportunities programme in the Civil Service. She has a demanding brief. Last year more than 400 people were killed at work and about 20,000 retired prematurely through ill-health. Up to 30 million working days are lost annually through sickness.

If Labour wins the next election and introduces the European social chapter, the HSE will be in the forefront of new workplace measures.

Miss Bacon, deputy director of the HSE since 1992, is, by her own admission, unlike most civil servants. "I don't think I own a pinstripe suit. I much prefer to wear trousers in the office. I don't see why that should change."

But it will. She concedes that when she has to appear before the Commons Public Accounts Committee she will have to conform. "When I am on public display, and someone might be offended by my informal dress, I will wear a skirt."

As director general she succeeds John Rimmington, whose wife, Stella, is the head of M15. "I know Stella socially but not very well. Women are not very clubbable. If there is a cosy club for us I am not a part of it. I go

home to relax or I might go to the pub or the opera."

She lives alone in a terraced house in Islington, north London, and owns a farmhouse in Somerset. The £90,000-a-year post comes with a car, which she has turned down. "I prefer to cycle," she said.

Women occupy just 10 per cent of the top three Civil Service ranks. The three other women permanent secretaries are Mrs Rimington, Valerie Strachan at Customs and Excise, and Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions. Miss Bacon does not conceal her irritation. "Progress is not fast enough. We have to try to take equal proportions of men and women from feeder grades into higher levels." But she dislikes quotas. "I would hate to think I got this job because I am a woman."

Educated at Bedales School and New Hall, Cambridge, she joined the Civil Service in 1967. She worked her way up to private secretary in the Employment Secretary's office in the last Labour Government. She spent a large part of the 1970s developing tough employment legislation, only to see it be dismantled by the Thatcher Government.

In 1980 she had a ten-month sabbatical in Latin America driving to remote villages on a 250cc Yamaha. At one point she was stranded in deepest Guatemala and lived for days on guavas and bananas.

Miss Bacon's main target will be the three million companies employing fewer than 50 people. "Most accidents are not caused by stress, but by picking up something too heavy or a badly positioned seat. We have to get that message through."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Taj Mahal creator's text sold

The *Garden of Truth*, a 12th-century Indian manuscript with an inscription by Shah Jahan, creator of the Taj Mahal, sold for £161,000 at Bonhams in London.

Funeral delayed

The funeral of Janet Brown, the nurse aged 51 beaten to death at her home in Radnage, Oxfordshire, two weeks ago, is to be delayed until police have finished their inquiries.

Ostrich ban plea

An animal rights group has urged P&O to stop importing live ostriches. The ferry company said that it carried fewer than ten last year and all were transported correctly.

Soccer fan bailed

A football fan who spat at Graham Taylor, the Wolves manager, has been bailed until May 5. Robert Hollister, 34, yesterday delivered an apology to Mr Taylor.

Suicide in Lords

A verdict of suicide was recorded on Raymond Morrissey, 26, an electrician's mate of southeast London, found hanged in a workshop at the House of Lords on March 7.

Mr Ron Brown

Mr Ron Brown, former Labour MP for Edinburgh Leith, has asked us to make clear that he never on any occasion tried to persuade Mr Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB defector, to donate £20,000, or any other sum of money, to Labour Party funds for a photograph of them together (report, December 26). Nor did he have secret meetings with the double agent; he knew him simply as a journalist. He also asks us to point out that although he initially won reselection for his Leith seat according to accepted rules, this was subsequently overturned by Labour's NEC and he was excluded from a rerun contest.

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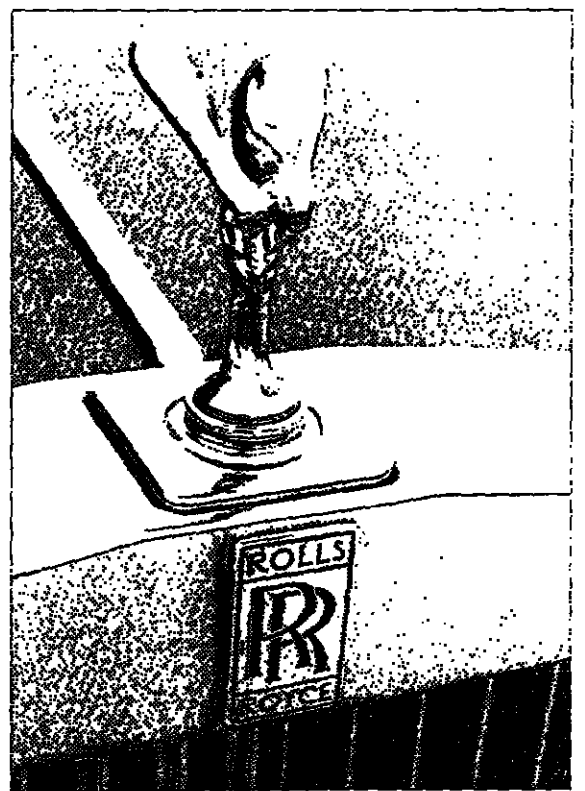
With an order book worth in excess of £1.5 billion (11 times the division's 1994 turnover), Vickers Defence Systems can look to the future with confidence.

Another Vickers P.L.C. company that is securing its future is Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

Two years ago, losses were turned around as management and workforce rose to the challenge of revolutionising working practices to create a leaner company with a substantially reduced break even point.

Add this to the recent collaborative engineering and supply arrangement with BMW and it's easy to see that the company is well placed for medium and long term advancement.

Last year, the automotive grouping of which Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a key part, doubled its profits to £21 million.



Profits increase: Automotive grouping profits doubled in 1994 to £21m

All Vickers P.L.C. companies continue to reduce their cost bases significantly. They're leaner, fitter and run under a common leadership style of participative management.

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Project Management: Last summer the National Audit Office cited Challenger 2 as one of the MoD's three major equipment orders on time and on budget

APR 27 1995

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BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Chinese late cash

Mahathir sweeps to victory as boom eclipses democracy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE Malaysian Government far exceeded its target of a two-thirds parliamentary majority in this week's general election, an almost embarrassingly lopsided result that confirms it as one of Asia's most formidable and unbeatable political machines.

The governing United Malays National Organisation threw everything into crossing the two-thirds barrier, which enables the Government to amend the constitution at will — a powerful political tool. The Opposition, always weak and divided, has been emasculated.

The massive victory leaves Malaysian democracy discredited in Western eyes because of the heavy-handed tactics employed to achieve it, and confirms a tendency to authoritarianism in what is traditionally a feudal society. None of the previous eight elections since independence has been so aggressively one-sided; a casual visitor might have thought this was a one-party state. Even the Government may wish it had been a little less successful.

The press, enfeebled by a requirement to apply annually for a publication permit, caved in completely. Government coalition parties, which exercise direct or indirect control over most big press companies, further ensured that newspapers remained tame during the campaign. Television and radio all but kept the opposition off the airwaves.

The Government pushed two themes: the state of the economy and race relations. On both counts its record is impressive. As television re-

peated, aid nauséum each night, there has been 8 per cent annual growth for seven years and Malaysia is moving into the economic big-time. It has almost no poverty: only 11 per cent of people are defined as "poor" — which means rich by the standards of many Asian countries — and there are jobs galore. Twenty per cent of labour has to be imported.

Ministers' campaign speeches were littered with superlatives about the biggest new airport, the widest roads, the greatest bridges and the finest new factories that are the rewards of economic success. Nobody denies it is true: Kuala Lumpur is a huge building site and there is a pervasive optimism about the future. The Government says there will be full industrialisation within 25 years.

Race relations, a cornerstone of sustained foreign confidence, have never been better. Tension between Chinese and the majority Malays, who are Muslim, exploded in riots in 1969, but since then affirmative action in favour of Malays in share-ownership, education, housing and jobs, has narrowed wealth disparities, the main source of strife. The business-orientated Chinese remain richer, but are less resented.

Dr Mahathir Mohamed, 69, the Prime Minister, has gained and lost from his massive victory. While his authority in the short-term has been strengthened, Anwar Ibrahim, his deputy and heir-apparent, has also been boosted by a clean sweep of his home state of Penang, a Chinese-majority region that the

Government feared losing. He is now strongly placed if he decides to challenge Dr Mahathir in party elections late next year. There is not a happy partnership: during the campaign, Dr Mahathir referred to the Brutus in the ranks.

The Government controls every state except Kelantan, a Malay heartland in the north-east, which was retained by the Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS). Even there, however, the Government improved on its 1990 performance.

The balm of money has removed the scars of the 1969 riots and the Chinese plainly do not resent government programmes to give Malays, ultimately, the greater share of the economy. There is, after all, plenty to go around. The constitution enshrines the special position of Malays, who make up more than half the population. The Chinese form 35 per cent.



Dr Mahathir Mohamed savours his election victory in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

Israelis on alert after Hezbollah mobilises forces

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

ISRAELI troops in southern Lebanon were placed on maximum alert yesterday in anticipation of fresh violence following the announcement that the leadership of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) had ordered a general mobilisation.

After Tuesday's suicide bomb attack in which 11 Israeli soldiers were wounded as their convoy was hit near the village of Bint Jbeil, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's secretary-general, said: "Faced with the enemy's considerable losses and the hysteria that has seized hold of its leaders, I decree the general mobilisation of our fighters in the south." His announcement, carried by Lebanese newspapers, added: "Let our fighters be ready to bombard Israeli populated colonies if the enemy tries to avenge its soldiers. I warn Israel against committing any aggression against our people."

Israeli commentators warned that Hezbollah could be expected to increase its

attacks prior to elections due in Lebanon next month. Tuesday's attack was the first suicide bomb attack against Israeli troops in the occupied "buffer zone" since August 1990.

The Hezbollah mobilisation came only 24 hours after Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Israeli Chief of Staff, told a Knesset committee that attacks against Israelis in southern Lebanon had doubled to an average of 50-60 a month, more than twice the figure for 1994.

As a result of the upsurge of Hezbollah violence many Israeli officers have been calling for Israeli forces to take a more aggressive stance inside Lebanon despite the risks that this will provoke retaliation of the type which recently saw Katyusha rockets kill one Israeli and wound 12 others in northern Israel. The Israeli Government blames Syria for failing to use its 46,000 occupying soldiers in Lebanon to restrain the Hezbollah militias.

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Don't get carried away though.

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You won't easily find your way out of The Queen of Hearts Maze, and you may well get lost in Alice's Curious Labyrinth. (The trick is to ignore the Cheshire Cat's directions.)

As for making a quick exit from Phantom Manor, forget it. You'll get out when we decide to let you out.

Disneyland PARIS

*Price quoted is based on a family of four (2 adults and 2 children under 10) sharing one room at the Hotel Santa Fe. Subject to date of arrival and availability. Entry Passports are on sale at the gate and at Disney stores. Kids' price for 3-11 year olds.

Argentine killings admitted

Buenos Aires: The former Argentine military regime murdered political opponents, General Martín Balza, the Army Chief-of-Staff, has admitted.

In a televised statement on Tuesday, General Balza said the army "did not know how to take on terrorists by legal means" and "employed illegitimate methods, including the suppression of life". It was the first time a high-ranking officer has spoken so openly of the repression during the 1976-1983 "dirty war".

Two former servicemen have confessed to joining "death flights" during the regime. One said thousands were pushed from planes into the ocean while still alive. (AP)

Russia creates Caucasus army

Moscow: Russia will create a new army for the volatile North Caucasus region in a move which will breach limits laid down in a key disarmament pact. Interfax news agency quoted a military leader as saying yesterday. Colonel-General Vladimir Semenov, the Russian ground forces commander, was reported as saying the new 8th Army should be in place by June 1. (Reuters)

Nuclear treaty deal nearer

New York: Britain and the other nuclear powers have won overwhelming support for an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and say the decision could be reached by consensus (James Hume writes). A conference on the future of the treaty, due to expire this year, has shown strong support for making controls on the spread of nuclear technology permanent.

Chinese students face cash penalty

Peking: In an effort to combat a growing brain drain, the Government plans to ask graduates from its universities who wish to go abroad to pay a prohibitive deposit, the Beijing Youth Daily said. The sum would equal 50 per cent of the scholarship paid to them by the state, the newspaper said, quoting Xie Qigang, the Education Ministry's director of funds for scholars studying overseas. (AFP)

Holocaust Day is marred by disputes

By Christopher Walker

THE annual Holocaust remembrance day will be marked in the Jewish state today amid controversy over events chosen to mark the killing of six million Jews by the Nazis.

A visit by the Jewish-born Roman Catholic Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, has been criticised by Israel's Chief Rabbi, the cardinal, he said, was a bad example for Israeli youth because he converted to Catholicism during the Second World War. By doing so, claimed the Chief Rabbi, the cardinal had contributed to the destruction of the Jewish people, just as the Nazis had.

Lord Jakobovits said he had expressed his "support in principle" for the Chief Rabbi's argument. In addition, there were personal reasons which made it difficult for me to be there.

Cardinal Lustiger said yesterday that he had never repudiated his Jewish origins. "I am a Jew in the same measure as all my other relatives... butchered in Auschwitz or in other camps," he said on Israeli television.

A Tel Aviv school became the centre of a separate dispute when its principal announced that this year's Holocaust Day observance would also commemorate non-Jewish Nazi victims. Chief Rabbi Lau described the plan as desecration. The school intends to ignore its critics.



Lord Jakobovits did not hear cardinal's speech

aven

eding of backed.

Russia's forgotten veterans pin their hopes on Moscow commemoration

FOR Russia's Second World War veterans, the celebrations planned for May 9 to mark the end of the war are more than just a distraction. They provide a desperately needed boost to incomes many say have declined to wartime levels and proof that the brave new world around them does remember their deeds, however briefly.

In a soup kitchen in southwest Moscow, the shabby figures of yesterday's heroes line up to receive lunch, paid for by Western charities, including donations from their one-time enemies, the Germans.

Among them is Sonja Stenz, 80, a Volga German who was part of the

Anne McElvay reports from Moscow on the search by former soldiers for dignity, recognition and a little cash to supplement their meagre pensions

propaganda units sent to western Russia and Belorussia in 1943 to persuade German soldiers on the Eastern Front to surrender. She still has a picture of herself walking up and down within firing range of the lines and clutching a megaphone. "We wore men's khaki army shirts," she recalled. "But our officers told us to wear skirts so that the soldiers would train their field-

glasses on us and we could grab their attention."

That strategy did not protect her from being shot at: she received shrapnel wounds in the legs and was invalided back to Moscow.

"When the war was over, I imagined that our country would go from strength to strength," she says, eyes downcast. "Now look at us. We are all beggars to the West."

All former service people and widows will receive two minimum pensions to top up the scanty basic monthly pay of 43,000 roubles (£5), as well as discounts on medicines which many elderly people are too poor to buy. A voucher for a stay at a sanatorium — a typically Soviet luxury, now unaffordable for many elderly people — is included.

In the capital's urine-soaked underpasses, be-medalled veterans stand, holding out a hand for money. Some are begging for themselves, others on behalf of a fund that will bring former soldiers from all over Russia to Moscow to witness the celebrations; 4,500 of

them will take part in a demonstration on Red Square, the first such vast, orchestrated event since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Moscow is undergoing a wash-and-brush-up, with trams and trolley buses bearing "50 years of Victory" signs and tanks practising their parade manoeuvres on the Kutuzovskiy Prospekt at night.

An "information and propaganda" campaign worthy of the Communists has been launched. Shop windows on the main Arbat Street are full of socialist realist pictures of heroic soldiers underneath the single word "Glory," with red stars and Kremlin towers in the back-

ground. The purpose, says Galina Shvetz, who is co-ordinating the campaign, is "the promotion of the ideas of patriotism and defence of the motherland through reminding people of the heroic deeds of Russian soldiers in the last war".

Russia's politicians are hoping to boost military morale, sagging after the Chechen fiasco, and improve their tarnished public image by aligning themselves with the commemoration. Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, can be seen touring the half-finished monuments and shouting at the men to work faster. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, has been cast-

ing an approving eye over the two main war monuments. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the far Right nationalist, graciously received a birthday present portrait of himself in uniform (despite the fact that he is only in the army reserve), arms folded defiantly and standing in front of a backdrop of the Kremlin towers. "Like Marshal Zhukov," beamed the donor, referring to the Soviet Union's greatest military commander and oblivious to the fact that Mr Zhirinovskiy's battlefield prowess is undisputed. "Like Zhukov," Mr Zhirinovskiy replied. "I will lead you all to a second victory."

Gaullists squabble as Chirac rhetoric swings to the right

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

JACQUES CHIRAC, the Gaullist candidate for the French presidency, ran into trouble in his scramble to rally the conservative camp yesterday when Edouard Balladur, his defeated party rival, slammed the door on peace talks and headed for the hills.

M. Balladur, the Prime Minister, flew off in a huff for a long weekend at his Alpine holiday house at Chamonix as M. Chirac swung his rhetoric firmly back to the right, promising to relieve fears over immigrants and rising crime.

The squabble with M. Balladur flared when M. Chirac refused his terms for a fence-mending session to unite the camps of the conservative

FRENCH ELECTION

contenders, narrowing, but with M. Chirac still ten points ahead of M. Jospin, who has gained a new lease of life after leading the field.

Both sides expect the campaign climax to be their television debate next Tuesday, the first and last between any candidates in the long campaign. Gaffes in previous debates were deemed to have sunk President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1981 and M. Chirac in 1988.

M. Balladur, only narrowly beaten by M. Chirac, has already urged his supporters to back M. Chirac to block a Socialist victory and the two

factions of the divided Gaullist and centre-right blocs have already begun uniting around the country.

The latest spat sprang from M. Chirac's insistence that the Prime Minister meet him alone as a vanquished foe rather than with a team of lieutenants seeking a negotiated peace.

"There will be no kind of negotiation between headquarters. I campaigned alone and there was a time when I was very alone. I intend to remain the only leader of my campaign," M. Chirac said.

Though 78 per cent of voters expect M. Chirac to win, according to a poll, he has been thrown on to the defensive. The Jospin team wants to destroy his image as an Olympian statesman by provoking him into acts that revive his old reputation as a hothead and an opportunist anchored well to the right.

"He is a political transvestite," M. Jospin thundered to a crowd in Carcassonne. "He adopted Reaganism and Thatcherism, the most reactionary conservatism possible, and then he took a social turn in this campaign."

In a similar fashion, M. Chirac is trying to demolish M. Jospin's claim to stand for a new style of socialism, recalling his record as President Mitterrand's successor, as party leader and then as a minister in his governments. In so doing, M. Chirac has abandoned his earlier line that the ideas of Left and Right were obsolete.

He has revived his old attacks on the "Socialist-Communist" regime of the Mitterrand Administration and hardened his pitch to attract the Le Pen voters. He is stealing M. Le Pen's clothes on law and order and pledged to crack down on illegal immigration.

If we continue down this slope, we will finish by witnessing the confiscation of order by religious and ethnic groups," he said, alluding to fears over Islam and the Arab and African populations that dominate many housing estates. Yesterday, M. Chirac said France would withdraw from the Schengen accords, which have opened European borders, if they had been found to promote illegal immigration.

While avoiding the ethnic theme, the Socialists are also soothing the despair over crime, national identity and unemployment that sent voters in unprecedented numbers to the fringe candidates of Left and Right: Jacques Delors, the former European Commission President, who has emerged from the background to become M. Jospin's most powerful ally, said yesterday these voters "are neither hyper-nationalists nor racists. They are seeking hope and a point of reference."

"There is no conflict between the construction of Europe and the rebuilding of a strong feeling of belonging to France," he said.

Laurent Maarek might be tempted to agree. The owner of a shop selling a vast array of chocolates in upper Meudon, he will vote for Jacques Chirac on May 7, but recognises that M. Jospin seems "decided enough".

The chocolatier put his finger on what might prove to be the Socialist candidate's biggest handicap — the heritage left by President Mitterrand. "Meudon's pleasant but the suburbs around us are in an awful state," M. Maarek said. "I think the Right might be better placed to find a solution, to find work for those people."

Bromley of France warms to Jospin

FROM ADAM SAGE IN MEUDON

MEUDON is a town east in the image of the man who might yet become its most famous son. Like Lionel Jospin, born here 57 years ago, it is respectable, solid, and unexciting, a French version of Bromley.

If few residents of this Parisian suburb know that the Socialist candidate for the presidency grew up in one of its tree-lined streets, it is hardly surprising. Until he confounded the pundits by winning the first round of the election last Sunday, few Frenchmen anywhere knew much about M. Jospin.

Although he was Education Minister in the late 1980s, his personal life remains cloaked in greyness. Yesterday he told a magazine for teenagers that he once dreamt of becoming the next Emiliano Zapata, the Mexican revolutionary, but he is a mystery to most voters. Many think he is from southwest France, where he is a councillor — an illusion he has done little to dispel.

Anonymity might be an advantage, according to shoppers and workers in Meudon yesterday. "He's new and that's a good thing," said Eric Batazère, 21, who has just got his first job in a bakery. "People are fed up with the old politicians and all their lies."

Many voters paid tribute to M. Jospin for at least "being himself". A middle-class intel-

lectual, he ran a campaign that appealed to the middle classes, radical enough to interest them but not sufficiently radical to scare them.

As a consequence, French professionals, such as those who live in Meudon, voted heavily for him while the country's working classes opted for the protest candidates.

"I knew Jospin would do well," said one pensioner. "He's honourable and honest, not like the rest of them. And when he was a minister, he did a good job."

Yet does M. Jospin lack the charm France usually demands of its leaders? "Maybe," said the pensioner. "But then charm hasn't done much for us in recent years."

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Ministers have grown defensive and in some cases petulant, sounding pretty much like their apartheid predecessors. Dullah Omar, the African National Congress (ANC) Minister of Justice, when asked how the Government could justify the abolition of the death penalty when polls showed 70 per cent in favour, answered that a referendum on this

South Africa pins hopes on economic upturn

By R. W. JOHNSON

THE first anniversary of South Africa's democratic transition takes place in a markedly different atmosphere to the euphoria in which the country's first universal suffrage election took place on April 27, 1994. Opinion polls show rising levels of disappointment and reproach among blacks and many say that the Government will not get their vote in the November local elections.

Ministers have grown defensive and in some cases petulant, sounding pretty much like their apartheid predecessors. Dullah Omar, the African National Congress (ANC) Minister of Justice, when asked how the Government could justify the abolition of the death penalty when polls showed 70 per cent in favour, answered that a referendum on this

issue would be ridiculous because the majority of the electorate were "ignorant and uneducated people". Similarly, Jay Naidoo, Minister for the Reconstruction and Development Plan, the centrepiece of the Government's effort to redress inequalities, had to admit recently to parliament that he had spent only 45 per cent of his allotted funds in the first year because of a general failure to work out specific projects. He then bitterly attacked MPs, saying they were to blame for this failure by not promoting the RDP.

In the past year there have been mutinies in the army and the police, chronic disorder on many university campuses, a rise in crime and a general lack of grip by the Government. Examples of the latter include an extremely tardy response to allegations of misconduct against Allan

Boesak, the veteran anti-apartheid campaigner and the sacking, reinstating and dismissal from the Government of Winnie Mandela, the President's estranged wife. Fewer than 5,000 houses have been built in the first year of the RDP, which has a target of 150,000, and the planned national health service has not materialised.

Despite the many hitches, the past year has been very successful with the economy picking up smartly and growth of more than 3 per cent expected this year, reducing unemployment for the first time in many years. Business confidence has improved and foreign investment is moving in. A private house-building boom is visibly underway.

The Government has embarked on "neo-liberal" economic policies with a wave of deregulation expected and

has taken an extremely tough line in deficit reduction and in trying to cut the public sector wage bill. As the policy bites, the trade unions are going to hate it and may win Communist Party support detrimental to the ANC.

However, there is a general improvement of people's mood and a reduction in tension. But in KwaZulu/Natal and elsewhere, there is trouble brewing with the Inkatha Freedom Party over the ANC's centralising impulses and the way in which it has torn up the agreement over international mediation.

□ Johannesburg. The ANC is likely break up into different parties with opposing ideologies as South African society becomes more normal. Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, said yesterday.

Jon Ashworth, page 27



Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb charged with war crimes, enters a bullet-proof compartment at his trial in The Hague

Pressure for Bosnia withdrawal gains momentum

By EYE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MOVES to pull United Nations troops out of Bosnia gained momentum yesterday as Russia joined France in threatening to withdraw and the Dutch followed Britain in vowing to leave a Serb-surrounded Muslim enclave in the east of the republic.

The increasing mood of impatience with the warring sides will come to a head on Monday, when the now largely-ignored ceasefire ends with no sign of it being renewed.

The UN mission in Bosnia is already fraught with uncertainty because it relies heavily on communications with the UN operation in Croatia, which is still trying to establish how it will work under the terms of a new mandate

largely dictated by President Tudjman. Nato contingency plans to evacuate the 24,000 peacekeepers are already well advanced.

Russia yesterday followed France in declaring that it was considering withdrawing its peacekeepers from Bosnia if the truce is not renewed and full-scale fighting resumes. Aleksandr Zotov, Moscow's chief negotiator in former Yugoslavia, said renewed hostilities might make it too dangerous for the UN peacekeepers to stay. An escalation in fighting "could create unbearable conditions for the UN peacekeepers", he told Interfax news agency.

Russia, which has one battalion in Bosnia, is feeling increasingly alienated from the West over the Balkans. Moscow wants an end to sanctions

against Serbia and thinks the American-backed Muslim-led Bosnian Government is greatly to blame for destroying the truce by launching an offensive in March.

Moscow had said previously that it might consider pulling out peacekeepers if full-scale hostilities resumed in Bosnia, but Mr Zotov's statement signalled for the first time that the option was being considered in earnest.

The Dutch Government, meanwhile, asked for its soldiers to be relieved from duty in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica, a day after Britain announced that it had asked the UN to replace its troops in Gorazde with servicemen from any other country.

In Paris, Edouard Balladur, the

Prime Minister, repeated that France could pull its troops out of Bosnia if measures to ensure their safety were not increased, notably by the extension of the crumbling truce. Mr Balladur told a cabinet meeting that France was still waiting for a response to demands made after two French UN troops were killed in Bosnia at Easter.

"The Prime Minister recalled that French troops could only remain as the heart of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) on two conditions," said Philippe Douste-Blazy, a government spokesman. These were "an extension of the ceasefire and the strengthening of Unprofor, not only in terms of protection, but also of means". France has 4,500 troops in the former Yugoslavia, the largest contingent in the UN force. More than 130 have been killed.

Chernobyl disaster 'killed' 125,000

By ANNE McELVOY
IN MOSCOW
AND MICHAEL HORNBEY

UKRAINE marked the ninth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster yesterday as its Health Minister claimed that the number of people killed or suffering illness as a result of the massive radioactive leak was far greater than disclosed.

Andrei Serdyuk said that 125,000 people in Ukraine had died as a result of the world's worst nuclear catastrophe. Two million people were suffering ill-health as a result.

Western experts were yesterday doubtful about the figures quoted by the Ukrainian authorities. Dr Keith Baverstock, a radiation scientist working for the World Health Organisation, was quoted as saying that the figure of 125,000 deaths was "not credible".

One legacy has been a confusing and often contradictory game played over the number of fatalities. Ukrainian officials previously put the death toll at 8,000. Nowadays, it is accepted to be far higher.

In Moscow, President Yeltsin pledged that the Russian Government would increase its contribution towards helping the victims. "We must admit that we have clearly not done enough for them," he said.

About 422,000 sheep on 600 farms scattered across the uplands of Britain are still suffering from the effects of atmospheric fallout from the Chernobyl disaster.

Farmers cannot move or sell the sheep, without having them checked for radiation. The Ministry of Agriculture is still unable to say when these remaining restrictions will be lifted.



Thabo Mbeki, who forecasts the breakup of the ANC, and Winnie Mandela, dismissed from the Government

سازمان اطلاعات

Oklahoma nursery 'picked as target for Waco revenge'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE AND TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

FEDERAL investigators believe that the Oklahoma bombers, perhaps seeking revenge for the children who died at Waco in 1993, may have selected the Alfred Murrah Building as a target precisely because it contained a day-care centre filled with infants.

Of the 80 people who died when the Branch Davidian compound burnt to the ground in April 1993, 18 were children. The bodies of 14 children have been recovered from the Oklahoma City building bombed last week, but that figure is expected to rise as rescue workers burrow deeper into the area that was once the "America Kids" day-care centre on the second floor.

The attack appears to have been planned meticulously and executed by people familiar with the federal offices and central Oklahoma. Terrorism experts say it is "totally inconceivable" that the bombers were unaware that the nine-storey building contained numerous children clustered on the second floor. Indeed, the location of the bomb, right outside the nursery window, ensured that the day-care



John Doe 2 is still sought by the FBI

centre felt the full force of the blast. Investigators are convinced that the events at Waco are intimately linked with last week's attack. According to the FBI the only suspect charged in the case, Timothy McVeigh, was enraged by the federal assault on the "Waco" cult compound, which came to its fiery end exactly two years before the Oklahoma blast.

The hunt for a second suspect, John Doe 2, increased after the release of a more

detailed identikit picture. The owner of a motel in Junction City, Kansas, said a man fitting the description had stayed there two days before the explosion.

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, yesterday attended the funeral of Alan Whicker, a Secret Service agent who had been one of their bodyguards and who was killed in the blast.

After the private service, Mr Clinton returned to the White House for a meeting with Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress to discuss anti-terrorism legislation in the wake of the bombing. There is broad agreement on some measures, including tighter restrictions on American visas for foreigners linked to terrorism and a ban on all fundraising in support of international terrorism.

There is less unanimity about expanding the authority of the FBI and other police agencies to infiltrate and spy on such dissident groups as the right-wing organisations linked to the Oklahoma tragedy. Liberals recall how peace groups were penetrated by the FBI in an unconstitutional abuse of power during the Vietnam War.

Investigators initially suspected that the Oklahoma building was selected in revenge against agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), several of whom were involved in the initial raid on the cult compound. The ATF was one of 17 federal agencies located in the Alfred Murrah Building.

Compared to other federal offices in the area, however, many of which supplied agents for the Waco operation, the ATF offices in the Oklahoma building were comparatively safe from a street-level blast. The 20 ATF agents in the building all worked on the top floor, and none was killed in the explosion.

Fears that the day-care centre may have been the direct target have prompted officials to reconsider whether children should be cared for in federal buildings.

Press fascinates killer

By BEN MACINTYRE

THE mysterious murderer known only as the "Unabomber" has renewed his terror campaign. The parcel bomb that killed an executive at a timber trade office in Sacramento, California, on Monday was his latest handiwork, according to the FBI. His 17-year campaign letter-bomb campaign has killed three people and injured 22.

Although no link has been established between the Oklahoma and Sacramento bombings, some terrorism experts speculate that the increasingly erratic and self-obsessed serial bomber may have been "aged" by the level of media coverage devoted to the Oklahoma City blast.

The bomber sent several anonymous but revealing let-

ters at the same time as he posted the parcel bomb that killed Gilbert Murray, 47, president of the California Forestry Association, in Sacramento.

The letters from the Unabomber, so called, because his earliest victims included university researchers and airline executives, suggest an increasingly bizarre preoccupation with environmental issues, but also a fascination with press coverage of his activities.

In a letter to *The New York Times*, Unabomber said he would halt his murderous bombing campaign if a 29,000-word article by him was published in a key American magazine or newspaper. "Because of its length, we suppose it will have to be serialised," the writer added.

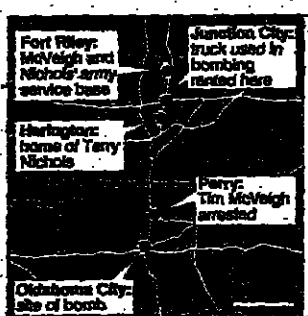
Michigan pair hated government

IN THE small Michigan town of Decker, near Lake Huron, it was often wondered why James Nichols was so insistent on driving without a licence, had renounced his American citizenship and always paid local shopkeepers in dollar bills carefully tucked with an ink stamp.

His younger brother, Terry, also caused consternation. He would appear repeatedly in court for efforts to sever all ties with the federal Government, refusing to license either his car or marriage and once he tried to pay an overdue loan with a home-made cheque for \$17,000 (£10,500).

The brothers have been held in custody as material witnesses since last week when FBI agents searched their property for clues that could tie them to the Oklahoma City bombing and its chief suspect, Timothy McVeigh. Mr McVeigh was a frequent guest of the brothers and his driving licence had given their farmstead as his address.

Now both brothers have been charged with manufacturing "destructive devices" in Michigan, but have not been linked directly to the bombing of the federal office building. Part of the affidavit against



Tom Rhodes reports from Oklahoma City on the Nichols brothers and their campaign against the federal administration

them, however, includes the statement of a neighbour who said he had heard James Nichols, 41, advocate the killing of President Clinton, judges and any agents involved in the siege of the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, in 1993.

That view has been expressed by many members of right-wing militia groups throughout the United States and, apparently, by Mr McVeigh himself. However, the brothers' hatred of Government, of taxes and an overwhelming federal influence over the individual long preceded the assault on the followers of David Koresh.

James St Clair, who runs a commodity business near the farm, said he first met James Nichols in the early 1980s to

discuss the sale of corn. Initially both men had been charming, soft-spoken and courteous. But they were death on taxes; they didn't seem to think that they or anyone else should pay them, he said. "The brothers were very nice, but if you hit them on the right subject, like that one, then it was like jelly and Hyde."

To neighbours, there was little mystery about the rural lives in the Thumb, the region of desolate farmland plains in northern Michigan. Like the surrounding farmers, James and Terry Nichols, 40, would rise early and work long hours to produce their crops. Occasionally there would be the blast of an explosion echoing from the fields as they, and Mr McVeigh, experimented with diesel fuel, peroxide, bleach

Vietnam's tourist industry enjoys spoils of war

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN CU CHI, VIETNAM

THE woods and rice fields around this small town 40 miles northwest of Ho Chi Minh City are among the most bombed areas in Vietnam.

Now, as communist Vietnam prepares to mark the 20th anniversary next Sunday of the end of the Vietnam War, the reconstructed tunnels beneath the landscape have become a Vietnam War theme park, a kind of "Cong World".

Tourists from capitalist Taiwan, South Korea, the former colonial power France and the occasional American war veteran come here in air-conditioned buses from Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, to hear how Viet Cong guerrillas humbled the United States. They leave with armfuls of T-shirts depicting young women fighters clutching AK47 rifles, and with toy bullets and guns fashioned from shrapnel. They can even fire off a few live rounds at a shooting range, all for the benefit of Vietnam's burgeoning socialist "market economy".

Ironically, Taiwanese and South Koreans face potential communist foes in China and North Korea today. Yet here, in a reconstructed version of the Vietnam War, they snap one another in front of bombed out US armoured personnel carriers and downed helicopters.

"Fire rained on our homeland day and night," a multilingual film intones. "The invading US Army used its massive firepower with the aim of turning the gentle and wealthy Cu Chi into a desert with no life."

In another irony, most of the soldier-guides singing the praises of communist heroes are from Ho Chi Minh City and their fathers probably fought in the US-backed South Vietnamese Army against the victorious Hanoi troops. My guide, Sergeant Minh Tam, 24, described how the Viet Cong spread shreds of US uniforms around the trap doors, hidden by fallen leaves, and used American soap to confuse tracker dogs used by the GIs. He pointed to a B52 bomb crater next to a dug-out and claimed implausibly that a communist general survived the strike.

As a correspondent who covered the Vietnam War, there was a particular poignancy in returning to Cu Chi. I made my first field trip — a helicopter assault with US troops — from the town in the late Sixties. Though the land-



Parasol and polka dots show a modern face of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon

ing in rice paddies was unopposed, I felt nervous enough, a feeling that increased after an American shell landed near by indicating that our company might be blasted by friendly fire, a frequent occurrence in Vietnam.

I interviewed the company commander about the aims of the operation and where "Charlie" — from "Victor Charlie", the radio call sign for VC or Viet Cong — might be lurking. "We keep tracking 'Charlie' into these woods then the trail just disappears," he said.

No wonder, as we learnt later, the VC disappeared through the tiny trap-doors on tree-trunks in rice fields and

rubber plantations into 150 miles of tunnels leading down to the Saigon River, within easy access of the capital. Underground, we heard later, were arms, field hospitals, the command HQ and dormitories.

The helicopter dropped off two GIs carrying canvas tents and tent poles. Seconds after I passed them between two trees, there was a huge explosion. Earth and body parts rained down. Only the torsos of the two Americans were left; they were put in rubber body bags and flown back to Cu Chi on the same helicopter. I had walked over the mine, but a single person was too light to detonate it: the Americans

would have survived but for the tent poles.

Terence Khoo, a Singaporean cameraman with an American TV station and a veteran of many field operations, accompanied me on the mission. He was to die in 1972, on what was to have been his last day in Vietnam before marrying and working safely elsewhere in Asia. As he walked up a hillside to get a panoramic shot above Highway One — "Street Without Joy" — during a North Vietnamese push in Quang Tri, a communist infantryman rose from the scrub and cut him down with his rifle.

The US 25th Infantry Division, which I had accompa-

nied, sustained 34,500 casualties in Vietnam, twice the number the unit suffered in the Second World War and Korea combined. Pint-sized infantrymen called "tunnel rats" were sent underground, many dying in gun-fights in the darkened tunnels, or by pitching forwards into booby traps lined with sharpened sticks, known as punjis.

The Viet Cong at Cu Chi also suffered heavy losses. B52 fortresses, flying five miles high out of sight and sound, carpet-bombed the area between 1966-72. During the 1968 Tet Offensive, allegedly planned here in an underground bunker by the Viet Cong's General Tran Van Tra, the guerrillas also took crippling losses in a tactical defeat with most of the fighting after that conducted by North Vietnamese regulars.

The Tet attack convinced many Americans that the war could never be won and contributed to President Lyndon B. Johnson's reversal in the New Hampshire primary the following month and to his decision not to stand again.

But these are battles long ago. "It is pleasant to be sitting here talking to you about these things, especially as you used to know the locality," said Sgt Tam as we sat in a little underground tea-room after we had crawled along seemingly miles of dusty tunnels widened to accommodate portly tourists.

B52 craters still dot the landscape, where only eucalyptus trees now grow in place of the rubber plantations because of the defoliants dropped here. Sgt Tam said, there are many war-crippled adults and children deformed by Agent Orange, the untested defoliant that contributes to chromosomal abnormalities.

"I've just been to Hills 22 and 55 near Danang where I was based," said Patrick Moore, 46, former Marine sergeant of Akron, Ohio, as he relaxed in a Saigon cafe.

"I've been seeing psychologists for years and haven't been able to sleep properly since I left Vietnam," he said. "I keep having images of the days when I had to carry buddies whose bodies had lain out in the fields for days and were crawling with maggots. But since I returned I've been sleeping like a baby."

"We fought a war to turn the Vietnamese into capitalists. That didn't work, but they are turning to capitalism anyway and we can help them do that without losing a single American life."

Stench of death as Hutus return home

FROM SAM KILEY IN MBAZI, SOUTHERN RWANDA

FLIES buzzed over a pile of sand covering the unmistakable odour of death. On each side, a line of Hutus queued before their new Tutsi masters, waiting to be registered to return to homes they fled ten months ago.

Nobody would say how the puddle of body fluids came to be in the middle of Mbazzi's communal offices. The waiting people had their own lives and uncertain futures to contemplate — secure only in the knowledge that they are Rwanda's new underclass.

Survivors of the massacre of up to 4,000 other Hutus when Kibeho camp was "cleaned out" last weekend, they stood in silence wondering whether they would be made to pay for the sins of their tribe. A year ago, Hutu extremists launched a genocidal frenzy against their Tutsi rivals. Now, with a government dom-

inated by Tutsis who also control the Army, the villagers face returning to homes where many are assumed to have participated in the mass killings of their neighbours.

Yesterday a Hutu man suspected of being a member of the militia that organised the genocide was almost beaten to death by five Tutsi women. A Hutu teacher said that no returning Hutus had been killed so far, but he was "terrified every time I see a soldier. Many people have been beaten."

Theogene Nsekukuzwe fled into Kibeho camp only two weeks before the massacre because he said he "heard rumours of a second genocide [of Hutus]". He was then forced to flee when Rwandan government soldiers opened fire on 80,000 displaced people they were trying to screen in search of participants in last year's slaughter.

"I did not have to flee the country when the [Tutsi-led] Rwandan Patriotic Front took power because all my neighbours knew that I was not

guilty. I am not afraid to go home now," he said. But standing next to him a youth, shaking with fear before being ordered on to a lorry that would take him to his home commune, admitted he was terrified. "There is going to be a second genocide. This time we will be the victims," he whispered, before soldiers silenced him with a glare.

Red Cross officials and United Nations peacekeepers working in Kibeho camp were not surprised yesterday when the last 2,000 people who barricaded themselves into its medical centre refused a Red Cross offer of free passage out, and vowed to die there.

Mainly Hutu extremists who are believed to be holding a large number of women and children hostage, they have been denied access to food or water by government troops since Friday.

1,100 Kibeho orphans

Butare, Rwanda: More than 1,100 children were orphaned by the Kibeho camp massacre, according to aid workers at a reception centre here. Other youngsters were left without known relatives. Half of them

are under three years old, including new-borns and at least one was taken from his dead mother's breast. More than half of the children do not know their names, or where they come from. (AFP)

<p>SINGLE DRAMA SKALLAGRIGG (SCREEN TWO) BBC Public Mill John Chapman Richard Spence Nigel Williams BBC 2</p> <p>DRAMA SERIAL TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM BBC Scotland Chris Parr, David Blair Dorina Franceschi BBC 2</p> <p>COMEDY PROGRAMME THREE FIGHTS, TWO WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL Positive Television David Tyler Geoff Posner BBC 2</p> <p>ORIGINAL TELEVISION MUSIC MIDDLEMARCH Stanley Myers Christopher Gunning BBC 2</p> <p>MAKE-UP MIDDLEMARCH Deanne Turner BBC 2</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIGHTING (FICTION/ENTERTAINMENT) FAMILY Dai Hobson BBC 1</p> <p>EDITING (FICTION/ENTERTAINMENT) TAKIN' OVER THE ASYLUM BBC Scotland Ian Farr BBC 2</p> <p>FLAHERTY DOCUMENTARY AWARD SILENT TWIN — WITHOUT MY SHADOW (INSIDE STORY) Olivia Lichtenstein BBC 1</p>	<p>RICHARD DIMBLEBY AWARD FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION ON SCREEN IN FACTUAL TELEVISION DESMOND LYNAM</p> <p>ALAN CLARKE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CREATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO TELEVISION EDWARD MIRZOEFF</p> <p>BAFTA awards the best...</p>	<p>SPORTS/EVENTS COVERAGE THE GRAND NATIONAL Keith Mackenzie Martin Hopkins BBC 1</p> <p>ACTRESS JULIET AUBREY Middlemarch BBC 2</p> <p>COMEDY PERFORMANCE JOANNA LUMLEY Absolutely Fabulous BBC 1</p> <p>COSTUME DESIGN MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT BBC Public Mill Jeremy Turner BBC 2</p> <p>GRAPHIC DESIGN THE DAY TODAY TalkBack Productions Richard Norley Russell Hilliard BBC 2</p> <p>SOUND (FICTION/ENTERTAINMENT) FAMILY Kieran Horgan Robert Miles Paul Conway David Old BBC 1</p> <p>SOUND (FACTUAL) TORVILL AND DEAN: FACING THE MUSIC David Welch Paul Hardy Keith Mortimer BBC 1</p> <p>CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME (FACTUAL) AS SEEN ON TV Christopher Morris BBC 2</p>
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BBC

TELEVISION AT ITS BEST

An eighteenth-century remedy still effective □ Drinks that gout sufferers should avoid □ Osteoarthritis and a shorter life-span



JUST as Lea & Perrins and Coca-Cola jealously guard the secret formulas which make their products subtly different from those of competitors, so in Shropshire in the 18th century an old woman refused to part with her family's recipe for a cure for dropsy. Dropsy is the old name for the swelling of the feet and legs which can be a feature of heart, liver or kidney failure.

In 1775 the physician William Withering was asked to unravel the mystery of the old lady's medicine and isolate the active ingredient from the traditional brew which contained more than 20 different herbs.

Dr Withering correctly decided that the herb with the power was foxglove. He proceeded to test his theory by giving foxglove leaves, extracts of foxglove or a synthetic product, Digoxin, with the same properties — was part of any

The foxglove and the heart

therapeutic package for those with heart failure.

In recent years, many doctors have restricted the prescription of Digoxin in the treatment of heart failure to those patients who have an abnormal rhythm, an irregular, usually fast, heartbeat known as atrial fibrillation. It dramatically slows the heart which, once it is working in a lower gear, regains its efficiency: the heart failure is alleviated and the dropsy disappears.

In cases in which the patient's heart rhythm is regular and he or she is not fibrillating, the use of the



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

drug has of late tended to be neglected. Professor John Hampton, of the University Hospital in Nottingham, has recently written in *Update*, a medical journal for general practitioners, reminding them of the story of Dr Withering's research, and suggesting that to disregard it may be unnecessarily depriving some of their patients with heart failure of a drug which could help. Other groups of drugs, which act in different ways, are often also necessary. Even in the absence of atrial fibrillation, taking Digoxin slows the heart and

increases the force of each contraction.

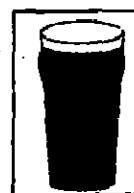
Professor Hampton quotes two trials which show that Digoxin, when used in patients with a normal rhythm, improved exercise tolerance.

Neither Dr Withering in the past nor Professor Hampton more recently have denied that digitalis and Digoxin are drugs in which the dose which will provide benefit is very close to that which is toxic. But the likelihood of toxicity is reduced if an eye is kept on the patient, and if other drugs or conditions which might potentiate its side-effects are kept in mind.

A large trial is now being carried out in America to evaluate the risks, benefits and effects on mortality of using Digoxin to treat heart failure; its conclusions are expected later in the year.

At the time of Dr Withering, however, no other effective treatment was available. It is therefore not surprising that soon after he announced the discovery of digitalis in 1785, after ten years of research on the Shropshire woman's mixture, he was honoured by being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Tippie tip



GOUT is not caused by alcohol, but in gouty patients the biochemical shortcomings of their metabolism may be exposed by its use.

Most gout sufferers have learnt the hard way that alcohol can cause trouble. This effect of alcohol is particularly noticeable when a period of relative starvation, such as the lack of breakfast and lunch, is followed by a few drinks on an empty stomach.

General Practitioner magazine has recently reported on a meeting of the British Society of Rheumatology at which a rheumatologist from the City Hospital, Aberdeen, gave details of the effect of different drinks on gout.

The research worker's surprising discovery was that gout cannot be avoided by confining drinking to non-alcoholic beer. In beer, it was shown, it is not only the alcohol but also the purines which exacerbate gout, and purine is present in both forms of beer.

Vodka and orange may be less likely to give a drinker a hangover than beer, but the alcohol in it can still cause some trouble for patients with gout. The way to reduce the chance of an attack of gout is to take orange juice only.

Gouty sufferers who have a heavy social life are also well-advised to have lunch when intending to go to a party in the evening.

Wear and tear



ALMOST as absurd as encouraging a severely depressed patient to "pull yourself together" is the widely held and oft-repeated belief that "creaking gates last longest".

The suggestion that patients with a host of problems take such good care of themselves that they outlive their robust active contemporaries seems unlikely to be true. A small piece of evidence that in one respect creaking gates do not last longer has recently been published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. A team of American doctors has been following the medical history of 297 women since 1944.

The doctors have uncovered one unexpected and so far unexplained finding.

Widespread osteoarthritis, the form of arthritis often resulting from fair wear and tear, is associated with a shorter life span. The more joints that are affected, and are therefore painful, swollen, creaky and restricted in their movement, the more obvious this relationship is.

In this trial, the diagnosis of osteoarthritis was made not on physical findings but as the result of X-ray examinations which were reported on by two independent radiologists.

The research workers excluded possible confounding factors such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes or excessive weight, but have not been able to exclude the inference of a lack of brisk exercise and possibly an enforced sedentary lifestyle, nor the effect of taking drugs to treat the inflammation and pain caused by the condition. Other possible explanations are being investigated.

James Drife on new ways to diagnose uterine disease

Dilation and curettage (D&C) is the commonest surgical operation in Britain involving general anaesthesia. The gynaecologist dilates the cervix (the neck of the uterus) and scrapes away the endometrium (the uterine lining) with a curette.

In the past D&C was often used to treat menorrhagia (heavy periods). Its effectiveness in treating this condition was proved only after the operation had been in widespread use for many years.

Now the main reason for carrying out D&C is to diagnose uterine disease. The peak age for the operation is 45-50. It can help to diagnose fibroids — benign tumours which are common in this age group or, more rarely, serious endometrial disease including cancer.

Other diagnostic methods are now available, however. Ultrasound scans can identify small fibroids and measure the endometrium precisely. Hysteroscopy, using a narrow fiberoptic instrument to look inside the uterus itself, can diagnose some abnormalities more accurately than D&C. It is now possible to biopsy the endometrium with a fine plastic tube. All these examinations can be done in the outpatient clinic without anaesthesia.

D&C is important in investigating unexpected bleeding after the menopause. In women under 35, however, serious endometrial disease is almost unknown and there are very few good reasons for the operation in this younger age group. (One is continued bleeding after pregnancy or miscarriage.)

It might be expected, then, that D&C would now have become much less common in most age groups and particularly in women under 35. This has indeed happened in Amer-

D&C has had its day

ica, where only 20 years ago D&C rates were almost twice as high as in Britain. During the 1980s the US saw a spectacular fall in its rates of D&C: in Britain, by contrast, rates have hardly changed over the past 20 years. British women are now six times more likely to undergo D&C than women in America.

In America operations such as hysterectomy are in general more common than in this country, which makes the fall in D&Cs all the more dramatic. The change was probably brought about by pressure from American health insurers, who were increasingly reluctant to pay for inpatient surgery when cheaper outpatient investigation and drug or

hormone treatment became available.

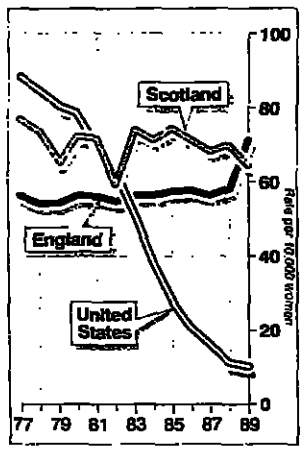
In Britain more and more minor gynaecological operations, such as D&C, are now done as day cases, though they still require anaesthesia. The American trend towards outpatient gynaecology, however, has not yet gathered momentum here.

Some British gynaecologists are still unconvinced that the fine instruments used for outpatient biopsy are as accurate as conventional D&C. But there is now a considerable weight of evidence that biopsy is satisfactory in most cases. For example, in a study of 104 women aged 21-54 in Gloucester, outpatient biopsy was acceptable to 101 women and provided adequate tissue for diagnosis in 88 cases. But good, randomised controlled trials are lacking.

Managers in the health service would be delighted to reduce the number of D&Cs. Indeed some, aware of the latest research, are considering putting arbitrary limits on the numbers they will finance. However, outpatient procedures such as hysteroscopy and ultrasound require investment in equipment and staff time, and it is not clear that these would be cheaper than day-case D&C.

It would, however, be kinder to women and for this reason the change will occur sooner or later. It ought to be sooner. An increasing number of us prefer to investigate and treat abnormal uterine bleeding without D&C. In too many hospitals the operation has become a habit. Pressure from GPs and the public will be needed to help them to kick it.

James Drife is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Leeds.



Are we at risk from blood that is donated?

The transfusion service is divided over the need for a new screening test. Nigel Hawkes reports

How safe should blood be? Absolutely as safe as testing can make it, most recipients would agree. Their convictions are bolstered by the disasters that struck blood transfusion services throughout the world in the 1980s, as first HIV and then hepatitis C were spread by contaminated blood.

Since then the National Blood Authority has insisted that Britain's blood supply is as safe as humanly possible. This assurance is little comfort for one young man who developed Hodgkin's lymphoma. After lengthy treatment he was virtually clear of the disease when he recently fell ill again.

He has been told that he has hepatitis B, which he is most likely to have acquired as a result of a blood transfusion at a London hospital. He is contemplating legal action against the hospital, and does not want his name mentioned.

His sister says: "It's appalling that a man should recover from Hodgkin's and then get this. He's desperately ill in hospital and has been told he could be there for months."

If blood does turn out to be the cause of the infection, he will have been a victim of a gap in the testing of blood which could have been closed years ago. Blood in Britain is tested against hepatitis B, but using a test that can miss a small proportion of carriers.

Experts have estimated that if Britain had followed America and introduced a different test for hepatitis B, an extra 1,100 donors a year would be shown to be carriers. So why has the test not been introduced? The arguments are complex, and delicately balanced. There are differing views within the blood transfusion service over where that balance lies.

Two years ago a meeting of senior executives of the service was told that this test, called anti-HBc screening, should be introduced. "Although some regional transfusion centres hoped that this could be deferred until April 1, 1994, for financial reasons, it was agreed that the decision should be made on logistical and scientific grounds," the minutes of the meeting record.

By August, it was clear that the Department of Health was insisting on deciding "whether and when" anti-HBc should be introduced. "Considerable concern was expressed about the delay which had occurred as a result... analogies were

drawn with the events which had occurred during the past year in France," the National Blood Authority minutes say. At this meeting Dr Harold Gunson, then the NBA's Medical Director, confirmed that he had written to the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeremy Metters, stating that the UK Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases "had decided that from a scientific point of view such routine screening is warranted and that the latest series of tests had shown that there were test kits which are satisfactory."

But in October Dr Gunson wrote to senior officials to say that a new committee, the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood and Tissues for Transplantation, had decided unanimously not to introduce anti-HBc tests.

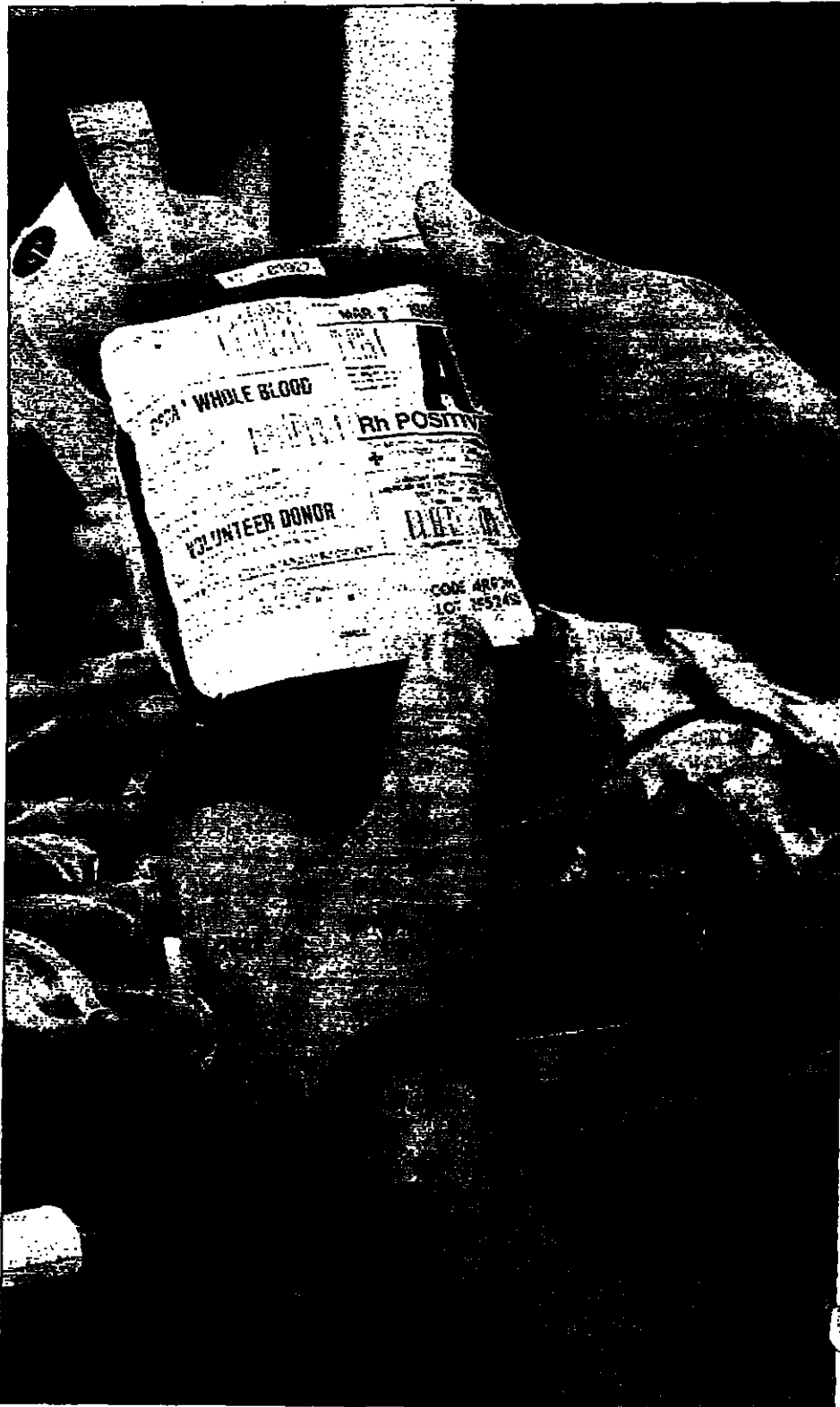
Among the reasons he gave were that the tests available would produce many "false positives" — that is, would register as contaminated many blood samples which were clean — that it would cost £3 million a year, and that anti-HBc testing was not widespread in Europe. The test would prevent a maximum of 100 cases a year of hepatitis B.

Dr Gunson wrote, though the figure might be as low as ten. Many cases could be sub-clinical — that is, the victim would not even notice. "This decision was not taken lightly," he wrote.

None of these documents are, of course, on the public record. As far as most of us know, everything possible is done to ensure that blood is absolutely safe. In fact, the decision to test or not to test is made on a judgment of "the best use of resources". In the words of Dr John Barbara, the NBA's microbiological consultant.

Blood transfusions in Britain, he points out, carry a "very low risk indeed." There were cogent reasons for looking at anti-HBc testing, but the question to ask is whether it would, on balance, affect the transmission of hepatitis B in Britain, he says.

In America, anti-HBc testing was introduced many years ago. One of its advantages was that, in addition to picking up cases of hepatitis B missed by the surface antigen test used in Britain, it served as a "surrogate" test for a form of hepatitis then known as non-A non-B. The virus responsible for this condition,



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now called hepatitis C, was later identified and efficient tests devised to detect it.

So might not the earlier introduction of anti-HBc testing in Britain have prevented roughly 3,000 people being infected with hepatitis C by blood transfusion before the new test came into use in 1991? Dr Barbara thinks not. A study in Britain had shown that, unlike in America, the test did not pick up these cases.

That means, he says, that the only benefit of the test would be in picking up the cases of hepatitis B missed by the existing test. "There have been rare cases where it is likely but not proven that anti-HBc testing could have been relevant," he concedes. But he says that the chance of being infected is vanishingly small.

The costs of the test are only one element, he says. "The trouble is that the test is not specific enough. It throws up a lot of false positives. That means that you need confirmatory tests, which we haven't got, or you have a tremendous wastage of blood. Then you have to inform donors, follow them up, and so on."

Critics within the service have heard this before. "Similar excuses were given for the late introduction of hepatitis C testing," says one who prefers to remain anonymous. "As a consequence, at least 3,000 patients were infected with hepatitis C."

Dr Huw Lloyd, a former director of the Northern Region Blood Transfusion Centre in Newcastle, was ready to introduce the anti-

HBc test when the decision not to was made for him. "If you are not very keen on it, you can make out there are a lot of extra costs," he says. "But if you are interested primarily in safety, you can do it with minimum cost."

The risks are small. Getting an infection from a transfusion is about as likely as winning the lottery — though a lot less fun. "If you compare the risks we run every day with the tiny risk of infection from a life-saving blood transfusion, there's no comparison," Dr Barbara says.

While that is true, it is little consolation for the few patients who may be infected and who have been denied government compensation. Legal action may be their only recourse.

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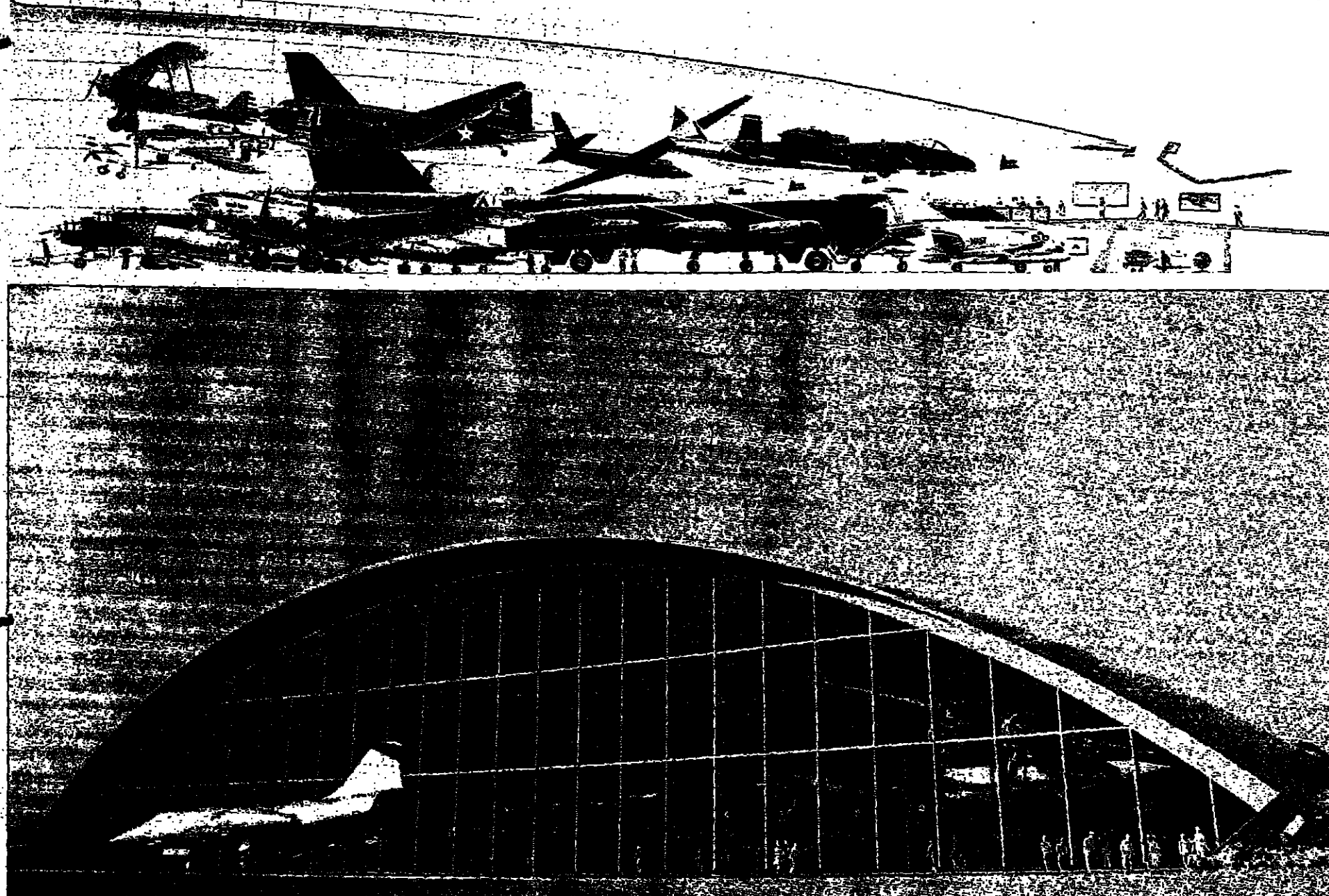
**PERFECT
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America's wartime airmen are to have an £11 million memorial, Walter Ellis reports

JOHN BATCHELOR



An artist's impression, above, of the planned American Air Museum at Duxford, near Cambridge. Top, a side-on view of the way in which aircraft will be displayed

A living memorial to the half-million American airmen who served in Britain from 1942 to 1945, and their successors in the decades since, has been discussed for years. Now, at last, with the 50th anniversary of VE-Day less than two weeks away, it looks like coming true.

Critics would say it is not before time. Ever since the first American aircrew and their support teams arrived in England — "the unsinkable aircraft carrier" — in the wake of Pearl Harbor, generations of sourpuss Little Englanders have sought to minimise their contribution to the war effort. But the trick looked only themselves.

American bombing raids against Germany and other Nazi strongholds in occupied Europe, usually conducted in daylight, proved crucial to softening-up the enemy in time for the D-Day landings. American fighter cover during the long push to Berlin was equally valuable. It is probably true to say that without the USAF, acting alongside the RAF, the defeat of Germany in the west would not have taken place.

Honouring Uncle Sam's heroes

Now I understand that the Heritage Fund of the National Lottery will next month pay out as much as £6.5 million towards the construction of an American Air Museum in Britain has caused delight on both sides of the Atlantic. The museum is the biggest of its kind in Europe, with enormous potential for tourism, and give concrete expression to the will of hundreds of thousands of US veterans and their friends for a suitable memorial to the colossal effort made by Uncle Sam in Europe's air defences.

With luck, construction of the museum should begin this autumn, ready for the proposed opening in the spring of 1997. Lottery cash is not essential to the enterprise, costed

overall at £11 million, but without it the resulting delays could be embarrassing and long.

Designed by Sir Norman Foster, architect of the award-winning Stansted airport, in Essex, the huge building, with room for 20 aircraft, including a B52 bomber, will rise alongside the existing Duxford Aviation Museum, south of Cambridge.

The design is visually stunning. Sir Norman had to provide a hangar that was large enough to contain the full range of US warplanes based in Britain this century. It had to appeal to the eye, come within strict budgetary constraints and be capable of displaying the aircraft while protecting them from long-term exposure to sunlight.

He appears to have succeeded, with something to spare. The elegant concept of the roof is derived, appropriately, from the stressed-skin structure commonly employed in the construction of aircraft. Made of concrete, it will form a vast dome, enclosing 70,000sq ft of exhibition space and ensuring dry, stable conditions whatever the weather. There will be a glass front, 300ft across, unbroken from floor to ceiling, similar to that at Stansted, while round the sides and rear will run a crescent-shaped glazed strip, housing a perimeter viewing ramp and ancillary facilities.

British visitors need not worry that the American addition to Duxford will mean any loss of the status of the existing exhibits. Foster's building will release acres of space within the original main hangar for the display of classic British designs, including a Victor V-

bomber, a Second World War Hastings bomber, a Shackleton long-range reconnaissance aircraft and a Concorde — all at present languishing in the damp open air of East Anglia. Duxford, part of the Imperial War Museum, will continue to be, first and foremost, a celebration of Britain's air story, housing warplanes of every kind, from 1914 almost to the present day.

The complex, located on the site of a Second World War airbase, already attracts 400,000 visitors annually, and the addition of the American museum could well take this total above half a million — including many from the United States.

Edward Inman, the director of Duxford, who says he is "very confident" that the project will go ahead and be completed on target, believes "the quality and profile of Foster's design should expand our number of visitors very considerably and create enormous interest".

Money from the National Lottery, should it be forthcoming, will be added to cash already in hand which has been donated by individuals and private interests in this country, and by 46,000 donors in America.

Leading the British appeal fund is Anne Heseltine, the wife of the President of the Board of Trade, and a trustee of the Imperial War Museum. The patron is the Duke of Kent. Support is also coming from, among others, Lord Carrington, Lord Chalfont, General Sir Peter de la Billière, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine and the historian Alistair Horne.

Mr Horne said yesterday: "It is a very important memorial — the only one of its kind — to a group of men who suffered quite staggering losses during the war. The American airmen were closely bonded to the local population in East Anglia, who were acutely aware of what they were going through. There is a strong feeling in the area that this is a marvellous idea, and long overdue."

Charlton Heston, the American film actor, who served with the USAF in the Aleutian Islands, off Alaska during the war, is American joint chairman of the scheme, alongside Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy. Heston was encouraged to lend his support by Jimmy Stewart, now 86, who served with distinction in the US 8th Air

Force in East Anglia, close to Duxford, right to the end of hostilities.

Heston has made a 10-minute video in support of the appeal, which has aroused interest among both retired service personnel and Ameri-

cans serving in Mildenhall and Lakenheath, Britain's only surviving US bases.

The Atlantic connection is weaker today than for many years. But it is not broken. Americans who arrive in London next month to attend Britain's celebrations of the 50th anniversary of VE-Day, as well as those who have fought alongside Britons in a variety of conflicts, from Korea to the Gulf, will be gratified that a proper acknowledgement of their sacrifice is about to be erected. They may have been over-paid and (allegedly) oversexed, but they were also, as the headlines to their many dead proclaim, over here.

Cautionary tales from Kensington

A beleaguered victim of car crime reports back from the front line

The conversation goes something like this. Single resident of north Kensington: "I would like to report a car break-in." Harassed middle-aged police constable (making an effort to look sharp): "Oh yes, madam. Would you like to furnish me with the details?" Plundered resident (experienced in the ways of police efforts to stamp out thievery in north Kensington): "Car window smashed during Easter. Stereo — unusable without its front panel, gouged out for good measure. Locatelli concertos untouched — clearly not to thief's taste. Boot ransacked, nothing else taken."

Constable (making middling-to-good effort at soothing smile): "Let's have the details. Car make, value..." Resident fills out form, constable makes self cup of tea and silly face at colleague. The conversation resumes. Resident (wearily, for this has happened many times): "Any chance of getting it back?" Constable (fast losing grip on happy expression): "Certainly, madam. We'll circulate the details. It may turn up in Portobello Market..." Voice tails off on seeing resident grappling unsteadily with a case of gut-wrenching fury.

This desire to claim that the stolen item will reappear in no time at all seems to stem from the belief that the best way of dealing with wronged citizens is to tell them what you think they want to hear, instead of telling them the truth. The symptoms of this maddening condition include a tendency to tell big fibs ("We might have a lead on the car-theft gang") and a compulsion to make wild promises.

In some ways I suppose it is a charming foible, this constabulary desire to please. Some of these young PCs simply don't want to disappoint you. At least that is what I used to tell myself on the many occasions I had dealings

with a certain PC Smith. I first met him in 1987 when, within a month of moving in, my ancient and undesirable car vanished. A novice in such things, I reported the theft with diagrams and intricate descriptions to PC Smith, to which he replied (and these words are engraved upon my heart): "No problem at all. We'll have it back for you in no time."

No time passed and I gave PC Smith a ring. "We've circulated the details, it'll show up fairly soon. I'll be in touch." A few weeks passed and I gave him another ring. "We're still searching."

Becoming rapidly versed in the ways of the north Kensington constabulary, I gave up on the old banger and invested in another older but incomparably more stylish MG. A few weeks later I came home to discover that the bonnet had been removed. Nuts and bolts had been

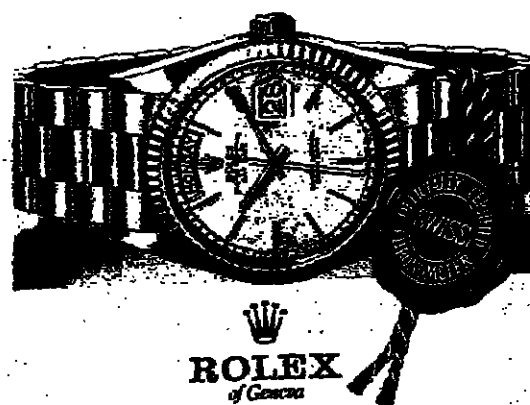
piled neatly on the pavement beside the car's carcass. I reported the theft to PC Smith, listened patiently to his hopes of sightings in Portobello and fitted the MG with a new bonnet. Ten days later the whole car vanished.

I made the familiar tramp over to the hill to the station. PC Smith and I went through the usual exchange. Weeks, months, eons passed, dynasties rose and fell and still no sign of the MG. A year later the insurers were finally poised to talk turkey when PC Smith paid me a visit. Smith, (heavily smile spread broadly across face): "Miss Pitman, isn't it? Owner of an MG wasn't it?" Me: "Well, I was a year ago." PC Smith: "I told you we'd find it. We've traced it to a suburb in Hampstead. It's there now waiting for you to pick it up." That was the second thing PC Smith taught me about the north Kensington constabulary: its infinite capacity to surprise.



JOANNA PITMAN

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A museum to the Americans is a fine idea, long overdue

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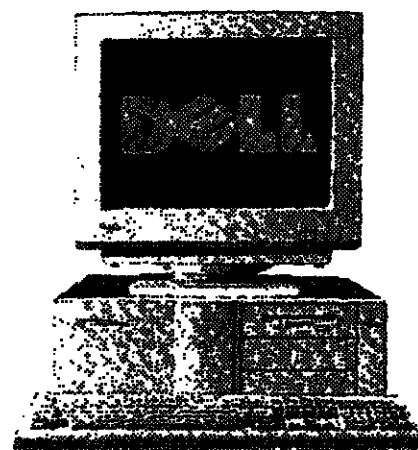
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T132

Janet Daley



■ Now that many women would like to be homemakers, economic necessity decrees otherwise

I all started when the tumble-dryer broke down. I had to do that quaint old thing with the line and the clothes pins. As I was taking down all the crisp laundry, smelling of April sunshine, it suddenly occurred to me that there is a whole generation of working women who are missing out on the sensory pleasures of domesticity. They run from home to office, coping with unreliable domestic help, meeting out quality time to querulous toddlers, phoning home between meetings to ask after a sick child — and never have time to smell the laundry along the way.

Then, in the very week of my meditations over the clothes line, came a magazine survey showing that a great tranche of professional women are exhausted and depressed by the attempt to juggle home and working life. A third of the two thousand questioned said they would prefer to be "homemakers".

That is a term which, under the feminist rules of discourse, has almost disappeared. Yet it was precisely the now derided craft skills of "home-making" which used to give the lives of working-class women a form of satisfaction which had been taken from their husbands by the industrial revolution.

Of course, I am a working woman myself, and have been throughout my married life. But I have never worked more than three days a week (and when the children were small, it went down to two afternoons a week). It was my good fortune to be in academic life, where part-time lecturing was an option and the holidays matched those of the school year. In truth though, there are many professions where part-time work is possible if women are prepared to give up the prospect of promotion to the highest levels.

But for millions of women who work full-time by financial necessity there is no such option. The overwhelming majority of married women who work do so because they have no choice. The single-earner household is almost extinct. What this means is that a whole dimension of national life which had been sustained by women at home is collapsing. Among the working classes, that means the community itself, and particularly the collective supervision of children by mothers, which had been a way of life in the old Victorian terraces. High-rise council blocks disrupted the community and shared parenthood of working-class families, but it might just have reorganised itself if women had not been forced out to work as well. Politicians wring their hands over juvenile crime

and the disintegration of the social fabric, without giving a thought to the single greatest familial change of the 20th century: thousands of children are now spending their after-school hours (and even their pre-school years) without adult supervision. The network of moral authority and emotional security that used to be maintained by women at home has disappeared.

Because there are now so few women who are not at work, staying at home is a lonely prospect. Which is where the exhausted executive women come in. They too work for financial reasons. Almost no single income can support a middle-class mortgage now. But they are also pushed into careers by fear of social isolation and loss of status. And, as they seem aware, they are missing much of the pleasure of child-rearing and the satisfaction of running a home.

One could argue that the lives of middle-class professional women today are really not so different from those of their 19th-century forebears. Bourgeois women then did not

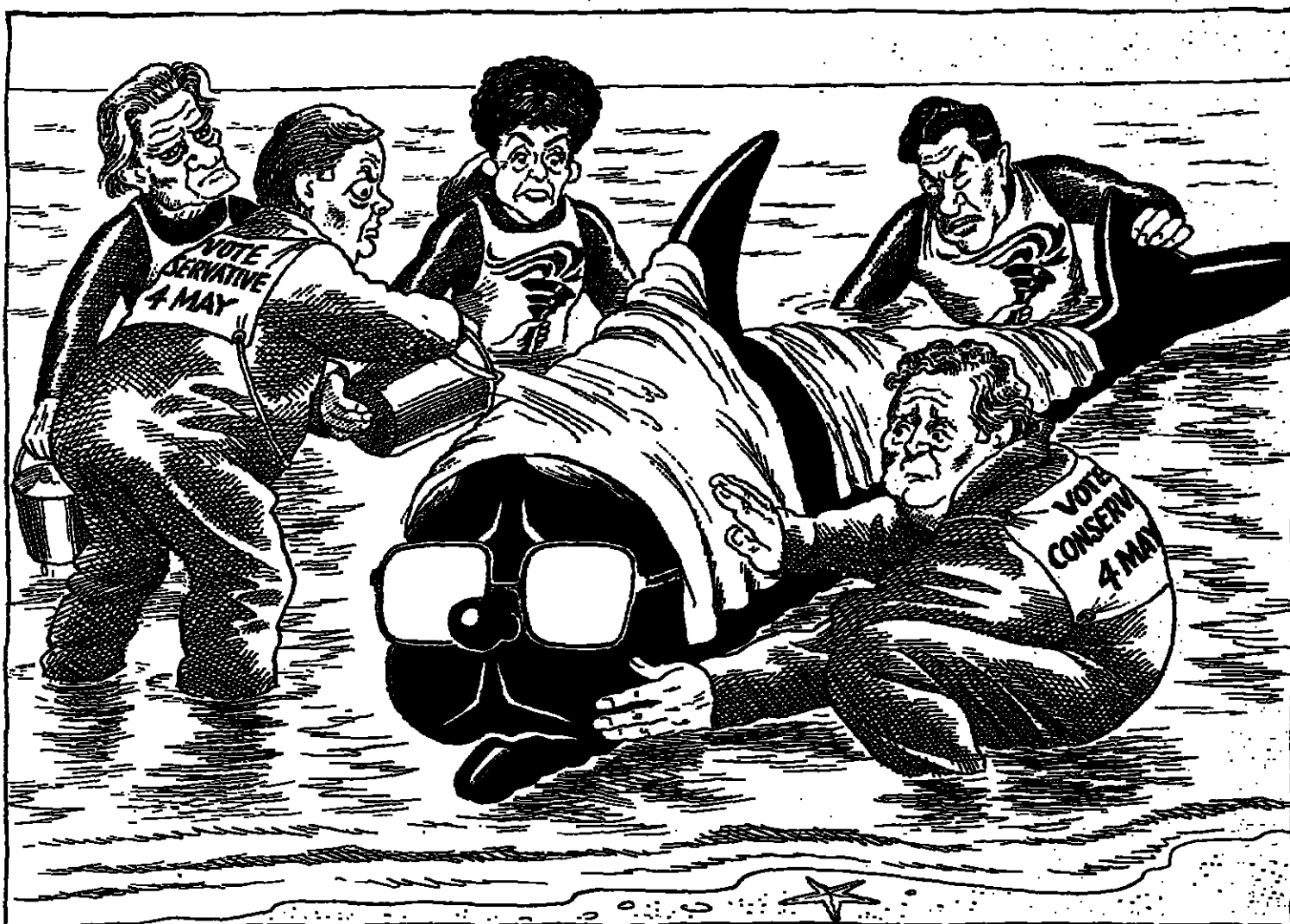
cook or raise their own children either. They simply made careers of their social lives and their charitable work, while the servants got on with it at home. But this, I think, is something of a myth.

Victorian novels are full of mothers nursing their feverish children while nursemaids stand by to help. They were not rushing off to the office leaving a sick infant with a young nanny (who will stay with the family for a year at most). The unnatural stress of this kind of female existence is quite unprecedented in European history.

Most important, the country is missing out on the contribution that such women used to make. Voluntary work and properly organised charity was once a viable alternative to state welfare programmes. Government ministers are desperate to revive that spirit of public duty. Are they not aware that it was sustained almost entirely by women who were free to give their time to something other than paid employment, and that government has helped to undermine it by making the single-breadwinner family economically unviable?

Women who do voluntary work now — even counselling or hospice help — dismiss their activities as "not a proper job". Being unpaid is tantamount to being a non-person, even though the most essential female pursuits have always been unpaid. Thirty years of feminism have taught women that the only kind of life (or work) that is worth having is one that is just like a man's.

Must a woman really be so like a man?



A LOSING BATTLE Peter Broom 27.4.95

Seeking a new de Gaulle

The French Right is split, but the people long for a leader of stature

The first round of the French presidential elections showed that the right wing is a majority, but is now split into three parts of roughly equal size. Jacques Chirac polled 20.8 per cent of the votes; Edouard Balladur, who was the leader of the Centrist Right, polled 18.6; the anti-Maastricht hard Right had a combined vote of 19.7, of which Jean-Marie Le Pen won 15 and Philippe de Villiers 4.7 per cent. Perhaps fortunately, Jacques Chirac, whose position lies somewhere between Balladur and Le Pen, is the man who has to pull together the whole of the Right. He has to do that if he is to win the second round.

It is not certain that he can do it. The polls before the first round forecast that Chirac would beat Lionel Jospin. In fact, Jospin was ahead. This has given the Socialist campaign for the second round a new momentum. Le Pen won his votes with a campaign of urban populism; his voters may be as receptive to left-wing as to right-wing propaganda in the run-off. Even M. Balladur's vote no doubt included some rather leftist moderates who would be as happy with a Socialist as a Gaullist President. If Jospin holds all the votes cast for candidates of the Left, and wins a quarter of the Balladur votes and a third of Le Pen's, he will be the next President. That is unlikely, but not impossible.

A Jospin victory would be a depressing experience for the French people. The presidency of François Mitterrand was cumulatively damaging because it went on too long. Socialism was not good for France in the 1980s or early 1990s. The marginal rate of income tax is 50 per cent higher than in Britain; unemployment is nominally 12 per cent, but actually much higher. France is continuously harassed with strikes, and is one of the most highly bureaucratised countries on earth. In this presidential election, Jospin, Chirac and Balladur were all graduates of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the élite college for the French civil service. It is as though John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown were all old Etonians, and Eton was a school for bureaucrats. A third socialist term in the presidency would therefore be destructive of French morale.

Lionel Jospin himself is an old-fashioned figure from the 1960s. He offers nothing new in perception or policy. He believes in high social expenditure, high taxes, bureaucracy,

detailed regulation, and in the Brussels system of Jacques Delors. In his programme there is talk of the need for change, but no sign of any willingness to change those parts of the system which have done the damage. M. Jospin would have to govern against the grain of the majority, even if he won the election; the French right may be split in three parts, and that might yet let him in, but the combined right-wing vote in the first round was nearly 60 per cent.

If Jacques Chirac wins he will still have to turn the three elements of the Right into an effective governing system. That may be impossible. The greatest difficulty will be the excessive bureaucracy of French public life, following traditions which go back to Napoleon and even to the 17th century.

In 1891 the rector of the University of Strasbourg gave the classic statement of bureaucratic authority, which applies to modern France, almost as much as it did to late 19th-century Germany, of which Strasbourg was then a part. "Our officials will never tolerate anybody's wrestling the power from their hands, certainly not parliamentary majorities, whom we know how to deal with in a masterly way. No kind of rule is endured so easily or accepted so gratefully as that of high-minded and highly educated civil servants."

Almost more than Germany, France has adopted this European bureaucratic tradition, with its combination of seriousness and arrogance. Edouard Balladur himself has been an admirable example of the high-minded and highly educated civil servant who becomes Prime Minister. Jacques Chirac is not like that; he is a real politician, a tactician, a populist, a charmer both of individuals and crowds. But nobody thinks he would be the decisive leader who would attack this supremacy of French officialdom. He has himself been a member of the French establishment since his days in President Pompidou's Cabinet nearly 30 years ago. He has to win the votes that went to Balladur in the first

round; they alone will pull him towards the soft centre.

Jean-Marie Le Pen has not yet endorsed Chirac, whom he dislikes and speaks of with contempt. Aspects of Le Pen's policy do, however, appeal to many Chirac supporters. The French have become very hostile to immigration. They are, quite reasonably, alarmed by what is happening in Algeria. Many of Chirac's voters voted "no" in the Maastricht referendum. The spread from the hard Right of nationalism to the soft centre of federalism in Europe is very wide.

Even in his own group, Chirac has to face these contradictions. He could well make Alain Juppé, Balladur's Foreign Minister, his new Prime Minister. Yet Juppé is another Balladur, a high-minded and highly educated civil servant. Such a prime ministership would reinforce the bureaucracy of both France and Brussels. Juppé too is a graduate of the ENA. As Prime Minister he would be a civil servant rather than a political leader. The real problems of France, unemployment, over-expenditure, over-regulation, the Maastricht complex, would be dealt with but would not be tackled.

At first sight, Philippe Séguin, who led the "no" campaign at the time of the Maastricht referendum, looks a more attractive figure. But nowadays he refuses to discuss the Maastricht issue on the grounds that it is a closed matter. Would that were true. He is also regarded as a convinced corporatist, who believes that the élites of politics, of officialdom, of business and of the trade unions should share the political decisions of France. Under Mitterrand they have done just that for the past 14 years.

The third senior member of Jacques Chirac's team, and the first Gaullist minister to back him in his campaign, is Alain Madelin. He has much the most interesting ideas of the three. As Minister for Small Business, he has been a champion of deregulation. In 1993 he even had the courage to express his doubts about the strong franc. In British terms, he

is the leader of the free-market Right. He has the support of some disillusioned small businessmen, many of whom voted for Le Pen because of his deregulatory policies.

Will Chirac back Alain Madelin and use his presidency to introduce the market reforms that France needs? Almost certainly not. Chirac is not that kind of man. He is a politician, which may be more useful for the presidency than being a good civil servant, but he is not a statesman with long-term objectives and clear principles to guide him. If elected, he will try to relieve the pain of the symptoms of the French disease. He will take risks to reduce unemployment; he will take more notice of the voters than of the bankers. Indeed, the Bank of France could pay a high price for having intervened against him during the election campaign. But in the next stage of his campaign, and if he becomes President, Jacques Chirac will do what comes naturally to him. He will try to be popular with everyone at once.

His virtue is that Chirac believes in the French nation and cares for the real welfare of its people. He is more of a nationalist than some of his right-wing critics suppose. He will judge economic policy by results in practical and political terms. So as President, he will be unlikely to take France into a single European currency, with all its risk of even higher unemployment. From Britain's point of view, Chirac will not make a bad President of France. Yet he offers no real prospect of the change for which the French people seem to be voting.

One way of looking at their votes has been to distinguish the three right-wing groups. Another way is to look at the size of the vote for radical change in French government, for discontinuity. Every group outside the supporters of Jospin, Balladur and Chirac voted for radical change, whether from left or right. No fewer than 37 per cent of the electorate voted in the first round for Trotskyists, communists, neo-fascists, Greens or the old-fashioned Catholic Right. All these parties advocated radical discontinuity in one form or another, and all reject the French establishment and the supremacy of the officials. The French have had enough. They feel that they have been squeezed by social change and that unemployment has risen much too far. They are looking for a new de Gaulle, but they are not sure they will find him in Jacques Chirac.

William Rees-Mogg

Given the boot

STRATEGIES are being drawn up to return the Duke of Wellington to his rightful home on Hyde Park Corner. A statue of our great military hero, cloak billowing astride his legendary Arabian steed, Copenhagen, has languished, all-but forgotten, in woods near Aldershot's garrison church since 1883. Queen Victoria banished the controversial 30ft edifice by Matthew Cotes Wyatt because she detested the view of it atop the Wellington Arch from her garden at Buckingham Palace.

"It is one of those typical Victorian statues which you either love or hate," says Neil Mitchell, a member of the Friends of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, who first suggested returning the statue. "It is absolutely colossal. I would guess the horse and figure together, discounting the plinth, are 30ft high. But a lot of people did not like the cloak and thought Wellington looked rather severe."

Instead, a life-size statue of the Iron Duke was erected opposite Apsley House, the splendid home that was presented to him after he returned victorious from Waterloo. The bronze chariot drawn by four horses, the *Quadriga*, by Adrian

Jones, was installed on top of the arch in 1912, and still stands there today.

But even Mitchell admits that the original statue may not be well received if it is returned to London. In fact, so unflattering is the depiction of Wellington that the first Frenchman to view it cried: "Now we are avenged!"



Wellington: banished

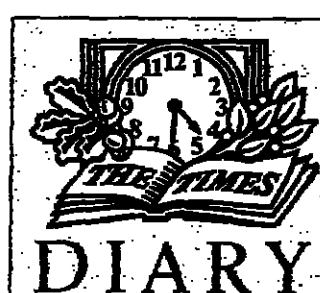
● Anglers at Newton Park lake, near Bath, were stunned when they realised the Prince of Wales was watching them. "He couldn't get over all the different flavoured baits, especially when someone showed him strawberry sweetcorn," says Dave Crookes, secretary of Bathampton angling club. "Unfortunately no one managed to oblige by catching anything while he was there."

Not pukka

AN UNEXPECTED polo aficionado braving the crush at Brian Stein's start-of-season party at PJ's bar in Fulham Road this week was the television celebrity Jeremy Beadle. Unlike most guests — such as the actress Stephanie Powers and the Marquess of Milford Haven — Beadle prefers to spectate.

"I absolutely adore it. But I do not regard polo as a sport — it's an event," enthuses Beadle, who is Stein's best friend. "I even commented once, although I didn't have the faintest idea what I was talking about, I didn't know one end of a chukka from another."

● In an effort to put spare books to good use, review copies from the BBC TV's Bookworm programme are dispatched to the mobile library on the Hebridean Isle of



Harris. Daisy Goodwin, the producer, recently received a letter from the library returning a £20 note she had inadvertently left between the pages of one volume. "The writer explained that the BBC needs the money more than we do," she laughed.

Gingerly

THOUGH MUCH praised for her common touch, Ginger Rogers could be brutal to fans when riled. One devotee who queued for an autograph at the stage door of the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane when the star was appearing in *Mame*, in 1969, suffered a severe lashing.

A biography of the great Hollywood star had recently appeared which began: "Ginger Rogers was never considered to be a great actress..." So Rogers flew into a

rage when a well-intentioned, if slightly naive fan, handed her a copy to sign. "She snatched it from the poor woman's hand and literally hurled it into the gutter," recalls one witness. "Then without a word she swept into a limousine."

Tory story

ONE TO watch in the local elections is John Kelly, standing for the Conservatives in the Stretford



"Gerald was terrified of another break-out"

ward of Trafford in Greater Manchester. For the disillusioned activist adopts a peculiarly folksy tone in his election leaflet.

"Are you depressed, unhappy, suicidal?" enquires Kelly. "Then think what it's like for me as a Conservative candidate in the present political climate." He goes on to admit he is "a bit ticked off" with the Government's actions.

Relating a talk with the party chairman, Kelly confides: "But Jeremy me old mate, I said, 'things are looking a bit grim.' Mr Hanley's response is not recorded."

Uncharitable

HUNTINGDONSHIRE councilors have forbidden work to continue on a new £500,000 home for Norma Major's favourite charity, Mencap, of which she is president. They protest that foundations for the Huntingdon building are in the wrong place and the plans do not make sense.

The council's deputy Tory leader, Mike Robertson, huffs: "If an architect can't use a tape-measure then I've no sympathy." But the local Mencap chairman, Betty Dix, insists the home is needed. "I think Mrs Major will be very upset."

P.H.S

Bonfire of the verities

Matthew d'Ancona on revitalising the inner cities

John Major's promise yesterday to "improve the inner cities" and their "concrete wasteland" rang rather truer than Margaret Thatcher's similar pledge after her 1987 election victory. Far more than his predecessor, the Prime Minister is familiar with urban adversity: to some extent, he is the product of it. His undertaking yesterday to work with town halls and the private sector in the inner cities may have been vague, but it had the stamp of sincerity.

In one sense, man has always associated the idea of a city with the ideal of harmonious community. From Augustine's *City of God* to Le Corbusier's notion of urban modernity and the opening sequence of Woody Allen's *Manhattan*, we have conjured up ideals of urban existence. What these dreams have in common is the faith that we are capable of finding happiness on earth in the streets, squares and parks of cities. Part of us expects them to work, to get better, to match our aspirations.

A contrary tradition, however, sees cities as disaster areas, anti-Arcadias to be avoided at all costs. Cobbett's condemnation of London as "the Great Wen" is a classic example. Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* rests on the assumption that cities are breaking up into two distinct societies — the privileged few who can afford to live a decent life and the unfortunate majority who cannot. Throughout the novel, its principal character, Sherman McCoy, seeks what he calls "insulation" from crime, from poverty, from urban reality. When he goes to a party six blocks away, he hires a limousine. There must be no contact between penthouse and pavement.

This is a literary example of an anxiety which has grown in recent years and has been particularly acute in Britain since the killing of James Bulger. When Mrs Thatcher promised to do something about the "inner cities", she referred to a "problem" rather than a place. Mayfair is part of the inner city of London, but not part of what she was talking about. When we say "inner-city", we use it as shorthand for deprivation, crime, illiteracy, unstable families, inadequate housing, tension and racial strife — a cluster of social problems giving rise to a sense of deep malaise. But policymakers who take on this problem need a good dose of humility. It is not just that so many central and local planners have already failed in these blighted areas. Proactive reformers must also understand that cities are more like organisms than machines. They need healing rather than mending, and the healing must begin with local circumstance not ministerial whim.

When market failure conspires with pious politics, the human cost can be spectacular. Planning policy which works in Southall may not work in Glasgow; the Byker Wall was originally a boon to the people of Newcastle, but it might not have been one in Bristol.

Grand national crusades such as "back to basics" and promises of "crackdown" on crime are so broad as to be meaningless. The purpose of national policy should be to harness the powerful instincts of communities to help themselves.

Against the received wisdom, quangos can often be a blessing. By breaking the lock of the town hall upon local politics, they often bring together the leading figures in a city cutting through red tape and encouraging partnership between private and public sectors. This has certainly been so in Liverpool. Every city needs a First XI of influential, active figures with whom central government can liaise. Enlightened oligarchy works.

More importantly, Whitehall can make it easier for local institutions to respond to local need. The extent to which liberalisation of the education market can raise standards is now a commonplace. Less has been said about the significance of schools as focuses of civic pride and community identity. It is often assumed that the effect of parental choice is to destabilise schools, to create a market of helpless pupils recklessly shunned from one school to another by consumerist parents. The practical effect is quite different. The point of parental choice is not to encourage instability in the school population but the opposite: to persuade parents that they have a stake in these institutions and can influence their management.

The point is to make parents see schools as local institutions to which they have chosen to send their children and where they themselves are welcome, rather than as branch offices of a Bismarckian national system. Schools may be crumbling, under-funded and staffed by demoralised teachers. But they are becoming increasingly important as forces of social cohesion: places where parents participate as governors, influence the curriculum and debate local issues. Community abhors a vacuum. So Mr Major is right to be cautiously optimistic about our civic structures: the pessimists underestimate the resilience of British society and the adaptability of its institutions. But he must realise that the victories in this crusade for regeneration will be small and hard-won.

This article is based on a paper given to yesterday's Social Market Foundation conference on cities.



FREE MONEY

The G7 ministers have done nothing and done well

After weeks of handwringing about the alleged currency crisis that is allegedly threatening the world economy, the meeting of G7 finance ministers in Washington broke up after five hours without results. This was the healthiest possible outcome of Tuesday night's meeting. There now seems no question of Washington responding to the Bundesbank, the Japanese Government, the International Monetary Fund or any other advocate of higher interest rates to "defend the dollar".

Higher rates would be wrong not only for America's own prospects but for global economic growth. In fact, the American domestic economy, which rightly remains the primary focus for policy-makers in Washington, is slowing: the next move in US interest rates is more likely to be down than up. Meanwhile, the dollar, the yen and the German mark will be left to find their own levels in the foreign exchange markets. If the Japanese and Europeans do not like these levels, they will be under growing pressure to cut their interest rates more aggressively or take other steps to boost imports, jobs and domestic demand — these would all be extremely welcome steps. The markets, in other words, will continue to push Japanese and European policymakers in the right direction.

By leaving the Americans free to ignore the dollar and putting the onus of any further policy adjustments on the Japanese and Germans, the Washington meeting implicitly endorsed a commonsense principle: that if currencies are to be stabilised, the primary responsibility for policy adjustment must fall on the countries with strong currencies rather than those with weak ones. The opposite principle, which still dominates the workings of the European exchange-rate mechanism, is that weak currency countries must always tighten their belts. If this were introduced into the global currency system, the result would be a dangerously deflationary bias: unemployment and protectionism are more serious threats today than inflation.

In practice, the deflationary ERM principle never had much chance of being put into effect by the G7. The countries whose industries are suffering most from currency instability are the ones with strong currencies — at present Japan, Germany and France.

By contrast, the weak currency countries — America, Britain, Italy and Canada — have little incentive to change policies, since they are enjoying a welcome boost to employment and export growth. But it was important as a matter of principle that the Americans, Canadians and British stood their ground intellectually at the G7 meeting and rejected the deflationary thinking of the Bundesbank and the IMF on economic grounds as well as in terms of *realpolitik*.

The question now is whether the G7 finance ministers will take the lessons of the Washington meeting to heart. Will the Japanese finally recognise that the strength of the yen is their problem and not America's? Will the French admit that the G7 is not going to save them from the consequences of shackling their economy to the German mark? Finally, will Britain at last stop worrying about the "weakness of sterling", when British industry is enjoying an export bonanza?

This last question, at least, will be answered on Friday week, when the Chancellor holds his next monetary meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England. If Kenneth Clarke has any sense, he will ignore the City's worries about sterling and base his decisions strictly on the strength of the domestic economy. With inflationary pressures and output apparently weakening, but conflicting evidence coming from official figures, the Chancellor would do well to wait for another month before taking any decision on interest rates.

And if the currency markets do not like that, he should recall what he told the G7 in Washington: if Governments and central banks get their domestic policies in order, currencies can be left to look after themselves.

FILES OF GOLD

New archive evidence of Soviet subversion in America

The jowly, unscrupulous figure of Senator Joseph McCarthy has given a name to an entire era of postwar American history. The onset of the Cold War, the "loss" of China to the Communists and, above all, the Soviet Union's acquisition of nuclear weapons are commonly supposed to have fuelled unjustified American paranoia about the activities of a fifth column working for Moscow. McCarthy's sinister antics, his bullying, his appalling mendacity, his branding of such eminent public servants as Secretary of State Dean Acheson and General George Marshall as traitors, did much to discredit anti-Communism at home and fuelled anti-Americanism, particularly among intellectuals, abroad. Which-hunts, blacklists and the hounding of innocent film stars were America's shame.

Yet, as the Soviet archives are opened to Western scholars, it becomes increasingly apparent that the American Communist Party and its fellow travellers did indeed betray their country for the sake of their "Socialist homeland". A new book drawing on the *Communist Archives*, *The Secret World of American Communism*, reviewed today on page 34, reveals the degree of penetration of American life achieved by the Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA). Not even the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA, was immune.

It appears that the party's operations were literally financed with "Moscow gold". The CPUSA's clandestine operations went beyond spying on its own countrymen: some Communists actively co-operated in Stalin's purge of their American colleagues who were fighting in the Spanish Civil War.

Indeed the CPUSA was a Soviet construct from the beginning. John Reed, the pro-Bolshevik author of *Ten Days That Shook the World*, was given gold and jewels by the Soviet Communist Party to establish a sister party in America. Armand Hammer, the financier and assiduous cultivator of the great and the good, kept it alive by acting as a channel for more Soviet funds thereafter.

The essential pattern of events is painfully clear. First the CPUSA, like the rest of the Communist movement, actively attacked social democrats and other progressives in the early 1930s: in the case of the German Communists this helped to pave the way for Hitler's assumption of power. Later, out of a misguided sentiment that there could be "no enemies on the left", some "New Deal" American liberals refused to accept that the Communists were helping Soviet subversion. Finally, when the inevitable "witch-hunt" came during the Cold War, genuine liberals were tarred as Communists.

Perhaps one of the greatest controversies in American history arose from the testimony of Whittaker Chambers that a network of Communist spies was working in Washington at the height of the Cold War. Liberals and conservatives are still at odds over the veracity of Chambers's testimony and the guilt of Alger Hiss, the State Department official whom he and a young Congressman, Richard Nixon, jointly accused of treason. Then there is the culpability of the American Atom Spies. The revelations have not ended. Books based on the Soviet archives are stoking up fires across the Atlantic that still have a long time to burn.

THE LAST STILLNESS

A silent tribute to those who lost their lives at war

Before the Queen sets her torch to the ceremonial bonfire in Hyde Park on May 8, her great audience will honour the memory of the dead by observing a two-minute period of silence. And the nation must follow. In doing so, our tribute will be both personal and collective, expressed by each citizen in the privacy of contemplation.

"As the truest society approaches always nearer to solitude, so the most excellent speech finally falls into silence." These words of Thoreau, written in an age more unscarred than our own, evoke the power and poignancy of a commemorative silence. John Major has joined the campaign to urge the people of this country to pay this most solemn homage to those who sacrificed their lives in the Second World War. In calling for a dignified "remembrance of those who made possible victory in Europe 50 years ago," he has recognised rightly that the 50th anniversary of VE-Day is an occasion as much for sombre order as joyful celebration.

The Prime Minister's statement is a victory for the Royal British Legion, which has been campaigning eloquently for a suitable ritual to mark the memory of those who died to liberate Europe from Nazism, and to defend the freedom of this country and its citizens. By its successful campaign, the Legion has shown once more how wrong it would be to regard the organisation as obsolete. On the occasion of its relaunch in

January this year, *The Times* emphasised the Legion's role as a servant to veteran soldiers of all ages.

But the Legion is also an unparalleled human archive, an association of people who have fought for this country and lived to tell the tale. It is in this last role that the Legion has conducted its campaign. Who should know better how to keep the memory of the dead alive for later generations than those who fought by their side? So incontrovertible is their message, and so powerful our sense of history on the occasion of this anniversary, that the Legion — and the Prime Minister — deserve the broadest support from within our society. It is now 50 years since the end of Europe's most bloody war: our rituals must be appropriate.

Some have argued that the Legion is encouraging calls for a similar public observance of two minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday each year. There can be no question that that date remains the most poignant fixture in the British calendar, an annual reminder of our collective debt to the casualties of the battlefield. But the ritual of silence, "audible to all men, at all times, and in all places", can be rightly reserved for only our most uncommon occasions. The 50th anniversary of VE-Day is one such event. We will mourn our dead on Poppy Day next year, but let VE-Day be the nation's last silence.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Lord Tony's appeal for national sovereignty

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, Lord Tony's appeal for national sovereignty is a powerful statement of the powers of Parliament as threatened by Britain's membership of the European Union (letter, April 26).

Lord Tony's appeal was one of the great Speeches, but his greatness lay entirely in his ability to control an unruly House; certainly not in upholding the rights of backbenchers against the Government, as many an independent-minded backbencher from any party would readily testify.

If Parliament has lost power in recent years it is partly because of the growing power of the executive, particularly during the last 15 years; and still more because of its wilful refusal to adjust its working methods so as to enable it to scrutinise European policies more closely.

Of course British membership of the European Union involves losing some sovereignty; we live in a world where unrestricted national sovereignty is an illusion. By agreeing to pool it we hope to increase our influence and our prosperity.

I am, etc.
ANTHONY MEYER
(Policy Director),
European Movement - UK,
Europe House,
158 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
April 26.

From Mr James Macdonald

Sir, With economy and precision Viscount Tony's appeal catalogues the erosion of our sovereignty.

We were not allowed a referendum before Sir Edward Heath bludgeoned the Tory majority into voting to join what was then the EEC. As I recall, the phrase he used in excuse was "the sovereignty of Parliament", before he set us on the slippery slope leading to Parliament losing that very sovereignty. A referendum was only offered when Labour came into power, and then, of course, on whether or not to leave. A baffled and hesitant electorate chose not to rock the boat.

Lord Tony's appeal also points out that our enterprises overseas far outweigh those with the European Union — as indeed do our instincts and sentiments. Perhaps with those factors in mind, when addressing French farmers the late President Pompidou summed up — with typical French clarity — the choice facing us. I remember watching him say, with a dra-

matic gesture across a large wall map: "Britain must choose: the continent of Europe, or the open sea."

It is ironic that — in place of the fuzzy messages relayed by the Euro-rebels — with those last three emotive words a Frenchman should best provide an easily understood slogan for our independence.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACDONALD,
58 Clifford Avenue,
Taunton, Somerset.
April 26.

From Sir Terence Higgins,
MP for Worthing (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Tony's appeal is unprecedented, and impassioned, letter rightly draws attention to the danger that continual moves towards further European integration will irrevocably undermine the sovereignty of Parliament.

Surprisingly, in referring to the possibility of a single European currency, he misses the most fundamental point — namely its implications for fiscal policy. Over the centuries, it is the control over taxation and public expenditure that has been Parliament's main weapon against those who wish to usurp its powers.

But it is immensely sad that Lord Tony's appeal now joins those who advocate a referendum. Far from agreeing that a referendum is "our democratic right" the great figures of the past — and especially Burke who stressed that MPs are representatives not delegates — would surely have regarded the referendum as an alien concept inconsistent with, and a threat to, our representative system of parliamentary democracy.

Yours sincerely,
TERENCE HIGGINS,
House of Commons.
April 26.

From Mr David Faulk

Sir, I can never understand why pro-Europeans are so reluctant to make the federal case openly without hiding behind economic issues. If we do not want to live in an alien world in which our ideas are given scant weight, we must pool our sovereignty with those who share a common heritage.

The reason we, and all the other nations of Europe, are in danger of losing our sovereignty to bureaucrats is because national parliaments look

back, as does Lord Tony, at the glories of past centuries rather than forward to future challenges. They are concerned not with their nation's best interest but their parliament's.

The union of which we should be doubtful is the United Kingdom. In a union of nation states in Europe there is no room for lesser unions. The nation states this side of the Channel are England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID FAULK,
Sedgemoor House, Church Lane,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.
April 26.

From Mr Leslie Singleton

Sir, Wouldn't it be wonderful, if come the next Euro-rebellion, many more take courage from the brilliant victory of Sir Teddy Taylor et al to whom, and to Viscount Tony, God-speed, and join in, and many more still the time after that, so that the Prime Minister would either have to resign or play it their way?

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE SINGLETON,
Wakerings Farm,
Little Waltham, Essex.

From Mr J. Stanley Heath

Sir, May I, through your columns, thank Viscount Tony for articulating so elegantly and powerfully what I believe are the views and feelings of so many people in Great Britain today.

My generation spent from 1939 to 1945 battling against an evil, dictatorial power and I will be attending a service on VE-Day to remember old comrades and friends, and giving thanks for personal survival. Those sentiments will be mixed with now wondering whether it was worthwhile — to be run by the dictators of the town halls, Whitehall and Brussels, and to be regarded as electoral voting fodder by those who are treated by government as lobby fodder.

I wish more power and long life to Viscount Tony who performed a great public service in writing to you.

Yours sincerely,
J. STANLEY HEATH,
54 Geneva Drive,
Newcastle, Staffordshire.
April 26.

quickly built enabled the US Navy to increase its protection of Allied shipping before and after Pearl Harbor. Paradoxically, the grant of the base sites and their subsequent use by the American Navy was of greater direct value to the British war effort than the destroyers themselves.

The main value of the destroyer transfer, however, was political. The idea of linking the destroyers to the base sites enabled President Roosevelt to circumvent the provisions of America's Neutrality Act; but the President was worried that handing over the destroyers would provoke a storm of protest from the substantial number of isolationist Americans who wanted to avoid getting involved in the conflict. As President Roosevelt remarked at the time: "Congress is going to raise hell about this." In fact there was remarkably little protest and the passage of the lend-lease legislation soon followed.

These 50 ships played a major role in forging the Anglo-American alliance.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
25 Abbot's Road, W14.
April 19.

Destroyer transfer

From Sir Philip Goodhart

Sir, In his article, "Fighting to the last Britain" (April 14), John Charmley alleges that in 1940 "Britain was persuaded to hand over its Caribbean bases for some old and mostly unusable destroyers".

Certainly the destroyers — which Churchill had constantly asked for — were difficult to manoeuvre. They had a turning circle similar to that of the battle cruiser *HMS Hood*. Many of the 50 destroyers did valuable convoy duty at a dangerous time but they probably did more damage to allied shipping — as a result of collisions — than they did to German U-boats.

On the other hand, there were no real British bases in the Caribbean to hand over. Churchill was, however, perfectly happy that some base sites in the Caribbean, and Bermuda and Newfoundland, should be handed over to the United States. As he told the House of Commons in September 1940: "I am very glad that the air and naval frontiers of the United States have been advanced along a wide arc into the Atlantic Ocean."

The bases that the Americans

Rights of protest

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, Your leader of April 21 about protesters who create public disorder was a whiff of fresh air. The threat of improper action is widespread and growing — anti-nuclear, anti-new roads, anti-hunt, anti-animal transport, etc. Every day the media offer us reports and pictures of "decent" people declaiming that their hearts are bleeding and their actions "peaceful".

The fact is that sitting on roads, obstructing bulldozers, invading buildings and so on, are not peaceful. They are acts of physical force. If they were blunty so described it would help to bring home why such actions cannot be permitted or condoned.

The right of protest is not under attack; the use of force must be.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PRITCHARD,
Little Garth, Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

Dead to rights

From Dr R. O. Law

Sir, I was intrigued to learn that strenuous physical exertion can reduce the risk of death ("Only hard exercise cuts risk of dying", April 21). I have always subscribed to the belief that death is not so much a risk as a certainty.

A dead certainty, one might say.

Yours faithfully,
R. O. LAW,
15 Albert Court,
Stoneygate Road, Leicester.
April 23.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Action West could take on Chechnia

From Lord Belhaven and Stenton and Lord Hylton

Sir, On April 18 the House of Lords discussed the long-term co-operation agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation. Later that day it debated the Russian invasion and repression of Chechnia.

Speakers recalled the deportation by Stalin in 1944 of the Chechen and Ingush peoples. All agreed that the current military action is disproportionate, indiscriminately brutal and a denial of the human rights of Chechens and Russians alike. Forty per cent of the population have been displaced from their homes. Russia appears to have disregarded the rules of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The International Committee of the Red Cross has not been allowed free access to Chechnia.

What should be the response of Western powers? They should certainly seek a permanent ceasefire, full access for humanitarian aid, and a political solution that respects the identity of the Chechen people and compensates them for their losses. The Council of Europe is right to suspend consideration of Russia's application for membership. The European Union should delay signature of the interim trade agreement with Russia.

Western leaders should postpone their planned visits to Moscow in May to commemorate the 1945 victory in Europe — a victory over tyranny and genocide — until there has been tangible progress towards a political solution for Chechnia. New grants and loans to Russia, together with technical aid, should also remain at risk until the OSCE can report significant change in the present horrific situation. Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia could make good use of any funds that might be withheld from Russia.

Yours faithfully,
BELHAVEN AND STENTON,
HYLTON,
House of Lords.
April 25.

Raw 'Passion'

From the Reverend Don Brevin

Sir, After you published such a good first leader to mark Good Friday I was sorry to read your negative report (Easter Saturday, April 15) of the production of the *Passion* — mostly performed in open-air arenas in the centre of London — on the grounds of some bad language, introduced (in my view not always wisely) in a search for greater realism.

This imaginative production was not the sanitised "Passion play" that traditional churchgoers are thought to prefer. This was *passion* — street-theatre, raw, with a cutting edge — designed to impact on non-churchgoers. And it did.

We need, these days, thought-provoking, disturbing presentations of the truth. Congratulations to the producers and the cast of this "Passion", who certainly achieved that goal.

Yours faithfully,
DON BREVIN,
Wickham Cottage,
Gaddeston Turn, Billington,
Nr Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.
April 20.

Unlisted Lowry

From Mrs Ronald Marshall

Sir, In your article on a proposed arts centre for Salford (Arts, April 24) you report that "for all Lowry's popular fame... there is no catalogue raisonné".

I am reminded of one reason why this is so. During the last 14 years of L. S. Lowry's life, a major part of which he spent with my late husband, Ronald, in The Stone Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne, my husband encouraged more than once to persuade the artist to assist our son in compiling such a record.

Lowry always turned down the idea for the simple reason that he had a habit of settling accounts with one of his works rather than with hard cash. And what would his hated *Indiana* Revenue have made of that?

Yours faithfully,
TILLY MARSHALL,
The Stone Gallery,
93 The High Street,
Burford, Oxfordshire.
April 24.

Repelling boarders

From Mr A. J. Goldman

Sir, I am intrigued to know where Libby Purves (article, April 26) has encountered "the desperate troopship *bonhomie* of the commuter train".

If she had ever joined the 7.30am from Godalming to Waterloo she would know that an outbreak of *bonhomie* by intruders on our train is normally met by a collection of hostile stares delivered over a synchronised lowering of our outstretched copies of *The Times*.

That invariably shames them into silence.

Yours faithfully,
TONY GOLDMAN,
Malden,
1 Knoll Wood, Godalming, Surrey.
April 26.

Sports letters, page 40

OBITUARIES

STEWART MacPHERSON

Stewart MacPherson, radio commentator, died on April 16 aged 86. He was born in Winnipeg, Canada, on October 29, 1908.

A VERSATILE broadcaster who was a sports commentator, war correspondent and panel game chairman, Stewart MacPherson had one of the best known voices on British radio in the 1940s. With his distinctive transatlantic accent and crisp phrasing, he had, when the need arose, a remarkable speed of delivery and was often called the fastest voice in radio.

His boxing commentaries in particular were fluent and colourful and, in those days before television coverage, his rapid-fire accounts of the big fights involving such British champions as Bruce Woodcock, Freddie Mills and Dick Turpin were not only the most immediate but often the most authoritative versions of the events. Such was the public interest in the MacPherson fight commentaries that when Hugh Dalton was Chancellor of the Exchequer he delayed his Budget broadcast for an hour on one occasion rather than interrupt the transmission of the MacPherson commentary on a Freddie Mills fight.

Away from sport MacPherson was the original chairman of the radio quiz shows, *Twenty Questions* and *Ignorance Is Bliss*, the first presenter of the long-running travelling radio show *Down Your Way* and the compère for three Royal Variety Performances. Yet, at the height of his fame and earning power, MacPherson gave up his career as a household name broadcaster in Britain and returned to Canada and relative obscurity.

Stewart Miles MacPherson was the grandson of a Scottish farmer who crossed the Atlantic from Skye to Prince Edward Island. He grew up in Winnipeg where he became determined to seek out a career in broadcasting. But when he failed to get even an audition at his local radio station, he headed for Britain. Arriving in



London in 1936 without funds, he sold shoes in a West End shop before gaining a BBC audition and thus a job as commentator on ice-hockey

matches. Because of the fluency of his delivery, he was soon in demand to cover other sports, including cycling, racing and boxing, and broadened

his range further with a variety of other outside broadcast assignments.

Soon after the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the BBC's war reporting unit and, together with Richard Dimbleby, Wynford Vaughan-Thomas and others, covered some of the key events of the conflict. His graphic descriptions of the battle of Arras were particularly memorable and he also reported from the Atlantic convoys.

After the war he returned to covering sports events, becoming the BBC's chief boxing commentator. The tempo of boxing perfectly suited his fast-talking style — and he struck up a famous partnership with a former referee, W. Barrington Dalby, who gave the inter-round summaries.

He also handled commentaries on the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, royal tours of Canada and South Africa, the Lord Mayor's Show, the maiden voyage of the *Queen Elizabeth* transatlantic liner and was one of the senior commentators at the 1948 Olympic Games.

In April 1946 he ventured into the entertainment field as question master of a quiz show, *Ignorance Is Bliss*. Exasperated by the imbecilities of his panel, he would order all and sundry to "shut up!" Then came *Down Your Way*, which started in December 1946, and his spell as the first chairman of the "radio parlour game" *Twenty Questions* which featured Jack Train and Anona Winn among others.

By this time he was a freelance broadcaster commanding high fees and, although he was a star of a non-visual medium, his square-jawed features, rimless glasses and tall rangy build had been well featured in the press, making him a national personality.

But in 1949, when he was one of the busiest and best known broadcasters in Britain, Stewart MacPherson decided to give it all up and to join a radio station in Minneapolis, Minne-

sota — a city of only half a million people.

His farewell performance in Britain was an appearance at a "royal command radio party" at Windsor Castle, given by King George VI for the castle staff. The King and other members of the Royal Family were devoted admirers of MacPherson's work.

The reason for MacPherson's surprising departure from Britain was his wife's reluctance to live permanently in England. The broadcaster considered his family life far more important to him than his career ambitions.

In Minneapolis he was responsible for special events and news broadcasts on both radio and television at Radio Station WCCO, Columbia Broadcasting System's outlet in the city. He was by no means the senior broadcaster at the station, presenting three news programmes a day besides commenting on basketball and American football games.

Although he earned far less money than he had in England, he said the work was less pressured and he and his family led a more comfortable life.

MacPherson was a natural broadcaster, to whom talking came easily, but also a very professional one. Before starting an outside broadcast he would jot down a list of adjectives and cross them off as he used them to avoid repetition.

From time to time the BBC lured him back for special programmes. In 1974 he was reunited with his old partner W. Barrington Dalby, by that time 81-years-old, to make a brief broadcast at a Joe Bugner fight at Wembley.

Surprisingly, for a man associated with boisterous activities like ice hockey and boxing, Stewart MacPherson's hobbies were golf and card games.

His wife Emily predeceased him; he is survived by their son and daughter.

LEOPOLD ULLSTEIN

Leopold Ullstein, publisher, died on March 22 aged 89. He was born on March 15, 1906.



THE small publishing house of James Barrie Books had been founded by the great-nephew of the playwright in 1947. After its merger with several even smaller companies, it became known, in 1965, as Barrie & Jenkins.

Leopold Ullstein, a publisher with long experience of the trade in Britain and prewar Germany, joined James Barrie in 1957 and, as its managing director for the next 15 years, steered it deftly through a series of acquisitions.

As a result of one of these in 1965, Ullstein became the publisher of P. G. Wodehouse. Wodehouse's first publisher had been the eccentric Herbert Jenkins who died of overwork in 1923 leaving his business to an animal charity. His successor, Derek Grimsdick, bought it back, built up a solid backlist and fostered the Wodehouse connection.

Though Wodehouse had insisted on a clause in his contract enabling him to revoke it if Jenkins died, in the event he felt no need to and stuck with the company.

Wodehouse went on to publish 71 books over the next fifty or so years, first under the Herbert Jenkins title and subsequently, for the last ten years of his life, with Leopold Ullstein under the Barrie & Jenkins imprint.

For Ullstein, Herbert Jenkins was only one of a series of acquisitions which substantially raised James Barrie's standing. First, in 1957, there had been the acquisition of Rockliff Books, an old house specialising in antiques and art books, then Hammond & Hammond, a popular fiction publisher. Herbert Jenkins in 1965, and two years later Cresset Press, Harold Laski's distinguished but financially precarious imprint, which published Sir John Summerson's masterly *Georgian London* as well as works by Carson McCullers.

Leopold Ullstein came from an old German magazine and newspaper publishing family whose business, Ullstein Verlag, had also pioneered the sale of paperbacks in Germany. As a Jewish-owned company, it was confiscated by the Nazis who then used it to publish their own works.

Ullstein arrived in Britain in 1937 with his wife. They had little money but had smuggled out a Pissaro which was sold to provide immediate funds. Ullstein's rusty schoolboy English improved with night-school lessons and practice though he retained for life some endearing quirks — for

instance, he unfailingly referred to his firm's catalogues as "katalogs". Before joining Barrie he started a political magazine, *World Opinion*.

In the early postwar years capital for James Barrie had been provided by Antony Samuel, of the Hill, Samuel merchant bank. But by 1957 it became clear that the firm needed more money to expand and Ullstein was approached to provide it. He agreed, joined the partnership and remained there for the next 15 years.

To James Barrie's general fiction, Ullstein added a list of modern history reference books. The four-volume *Chronology of the Modern World*, edited by Neville Williams in the mid-1940s, was a notable success, as was the three-volume *The Economics of Taste*, by Gerald Reiffinger (1961, 1963 and 1970). There was also a fine study of the Soviet experience of the Second World War, *Russia At War* by Alexander Werth (1964).

On the fiction side, there appeared, in 1961, a translation of the Norwegian author Agnar Mykle, whose *The Song of the Red Ruby* had already generated a good deal of publicity in Oslo, where it had been prosecuted as an obscene book.

Ullstein left Barrie & Jenkins in 1972 at the beginning of a slump for the book trade in Britain. There followed five managing directors in as many years before the firm was taken over by Hutchinson, and later — along with Hutchinson — by Century and finally Random House.

Ullstein lived in a flat in Belsize Park and there he retired, reading as insatiably as ever and watching the army of squirrels which populated his garden. There were no children, and he is survived by his wife Betty.

STEPHEN KEMP

Stephen Kemp, LVO, OBE, former Secretary-General of the Royal Commonwealth Society, died on March 23 aged 77. He was born on October 24, 1917.

STEPHEN KEMP was born in Hong Kong a year before the 1915 Amoyse. His parents returned to England where he was 13 and he went to school at Westminster — in the days when the boys there still wore morning coats and top hats.

Following the normal Westminster progression to Christ Church, Oxford, he threw himself into the affairs of the college boat club, tipping the scales at 12st 12lb. He was a natural oarsman and rowed at number three for his college eight. But he was also, untypically, a bit of a dandy. He wore his hair long and insisted on sporting rowing shorts of his own design.

The war broke out before he could finish his studies at Oxford, and he joined the Royal Artillery. At one point, with the modest rank of second lieutenant, he found himself in command of the defences of the Isle of Wight.

But, like his father before him, the Colonial Service was in his blood and in 1940 he volunteered to go out to Malaya. For him it was a good decision, but distinctly poor timing as he arrived just before the Japanese invasion, and he was among those captured at Singapore. He spent four years in prisoner-of-war camps on the Burma Railway and the River Kwai. He seldom talked about it but when he did he was often amusing and never bitter.

After his release, following VJ-Day in August 1945, Kemp returned to Oxford, weighing a good deal less than the 12st 12lb he had done in 1938. He went down to the river to seek

out George Harris, the Christ Church boatman. As his old friend responded to his greeting, there was a mixture of shock and relief in his face: "They told me, Mr Kemp, sir," said Harris in an unconscious echo of the famous remark to Heracles, "they told me you were dead."

Soon he and his wife — he had married in 1939 — returned to Malaya, where he became district officer at Segamat in Johore at the beginning of the Communist insurgency. This was the start of a career of distinction, both in Malaya and back in London. He became secretary to the Governor in Kuala Lumpur and played a large part in the country's successful transition to independence in 1957. He remained as a deputy permanent secretary there until 1961. When he did finally return to Britain, it was to become, initially, deputy secretary-general, and then secretary-general of the Royal Commonwealth Society, retiring from the latter post in 1983.

He was, in many ways, the classic backroom boy. He took great pride in the organisation of the annual Commonwealth Day service in Westminster Abbey. He was appointed OBE for his work in Malaya and made a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order by the Queen in 1983.

He loved Langford in Oxfordshire, where he lived in semi-retirement, and was proud both to be clerk to the parish council and chairman of the Oxfordshire Fieldpaths Society. Another retirement interest was the Commonwealth Essay Competition. His enthusiasm for the essay competition was infectious. He built up the number of entries from 945 in 1985 to 6,260 from both countries and territories in 1994.

His wife, two sons and a daughter survive him.



HANNES ALFVEN

Hannes Alfven, Swedish physicist, died in Stockholm on April 2 aged 86. He was born in Norrköping, Sweden, on May 30, 1908.

HANNES ALFVEN, accepting the 1970 Nobel Prize for Physics, asserted: "In the beginning was plasma." His was a pioneering role in the study of plasmas — highly ionised gases containing free positive ions and electrons — which had implications both for cosmology and for the search for a safe and long-lasting source of power.

Late in life, having fallen out with the Swedish Government and retired part-time to the University of California in San Diego, Alfven was a persistent critic of nuclear power.

His claim was that the industry could not dodge responsibility for nuclear waste by claiming it had made every effort to find safe ways of disposing of it, and this became something of a mantra

to the anti-nuclear activists during the 1970s.

Alfven was educated at the University of Uppsala, gaining his PhD in 1934. In 1940 he joined the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. By then he had already made important findings in the study of the interaction between magnetic fields and plasmas, a form of matter exotic on Earth but ubiquitous in the cosmos.

Among other things, Alfven sought to explain the stability of sunspots through his frozen-in-flux theorem, in which a plasma is bound to the magnetic lines of flux passing through it. In 1939 he proposed a theory to explain magnetic storms and aurorae, and devised a technique for calculating the spiral movements of a particle in a magnetic field.

In the 1950s these ideas began to have a practical application, as the first attempts were made to tame the fusion reaction that occurs in the Sun and to use it as a

source of electricity. Trapping plasmas within magnetic fields has proved a long and arduous road, and when in 1967 funds for fusion research were reduced in Sweden, Alfven threatened to leave the country. In the event, he subsequently divided his time between San Diego and Stockholm.

Alfven also used his ideas about the behaviour of plasmas to produce a theory of the origin of the planets. He suggested that they had been formed from material captured by the Sun from interstellar dust. Drawn towards the Sun, the atoms became ionised and condensed into particles which coalesced into planets. While not accepted as the basis for the formation of the inner planets, the theory did suggest that magnetohydrodynamics — the studies of plasma in magnetic fields — could be important in astronomy.

During the 1960s Alfven became involved in the Pugwash movement, and



warned publicly of the dangers of nuclear proliferation. In 1972 he was among a group who after a meeting in Oxford appealed to governments to abandon fast-breeder reactors and concentrate more effort on nuclear fusion.

In 1938 Alfven married Kerstin Eriksson, and they had five children.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW. In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Mr. Justice [Name], at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, EC4A 3DF, on the 21st day of April 1995.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW. In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Mr. Justice [Name], at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, EC4A 3DF, on the 21st day of April 1995.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW. In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Mr. Justice [Name], at the Royal Courts of Justice, London, EC4A 3DF, on the 21st day of April 1995.

TRAFFIC IN OLD HORSES

Communications received from both countries convey the welcome news that, in France as in England, many lovers of animals have been deeply moved by our Paris Correspondent's account of the suffering endured by a number of horses, worn out in the service of man, that were recently exported from South America to end their days in a European slaughterhouse. The story told by our Correspondent, abundantly confirmed by French eye-witnesses and a statement signed by accredited British representatives of the International League against the Export of Horses for Butchery, is a typical case of the evils which constantly disgrace the present system. Eighty of these helpless animals were shipped across the Atlantic on the deck of a cargo boat, herded together in batches of five or more in each of the narrow divisions in which they were penned for twenty-nine days. When the boat reached this side three of them were dead. Many of the rest were lame,

ON THIS DAY

April 27 1932

In 1921 the Ministry of Agriculture had tightened up the law relating to the export of horses by requiring the poorest class of horses to be afforded the same comfort in transit as hunters, polo ponies and army remounts.

and some scarred by the kicks and bites of their fellow victims. Two days later they were entrained for a twenty-four hour journey to Paris, at the end of which some of them had been without food or water for fifty hours. Several had been seriously injured as they were being brought ashore at Le Havre, some were beaten and prodded with whips and sticks, or hauled along half-strangled by ropes fastened round their heads and necks. No one nation — our own included — that takes any part in

this deplorable traffic is in a position to throw stones at another. Though the traffic in English horses has now been largely converted into a dead meat trade, the number exported alive each year is still about 10,000, and, once they are landed, the British Government has no control over what becomes of them. Whether they are to be slaughtered for human food or set to work on the land it is powerless to save them from the cruelties known to exist in some of the countries in which they are sold. So long as England allows them to leave its shores alive, it cannot escape responsibility for their ultimate fate. An indirect means of solving the larger problem of the world traffic in these animals might possibly be a drastic reform of the conditions of their transport by land or sea so that the trade would cease to exist because it would cease to pay. But what is really wanted is the total suppression of the trade in live horses of this class; and this, in all probability, can only be brought about by the intervention of the League of Nations.

As the economy recovers, business air travel bookings are up by 15 per cent. Harvey Elliott introduces a four-page report on the industry

Is British business set for takeoff?

A slow smile is beginning to creep across the faces of leading airline and hotel executives as the "feel-good" factor begins to take hold throughout the business travel industry. After years of watching helplessly as business drained away because of the recession, the Gulf War and the company accountants who cut travel budgets, there is at last evidence that business travel is back in business.

Eric Brannan, senior vice-president of American Express's business travel operations in Europe, says there was an increase of at least 15 per cent in business air travel bookings in the first quarter of 1995.

"Airlines are seeing their yields rise and business people are travelling again," he says. "There can be no doubt that the economy is recovering and as a result business travel is growing too."

His view is backed by George Paton, chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents which handles more than 75 per cent of corporate air traffic in Britain. "Business travel has only recently passed through the pain threshold," he says. "We are now seeing fuller business-class cabins and a gradual return to pre-recession forward booking patterns. But the whole metamorphosis has forced carriers into rethinking and reshaping their products. One of the more obvious changes is a pronounced swing from traditional first-class to an ever-increasing selection of business of premium-class flights."

Richard Lovell, group managing director and vice-president of Carlson Wagonlit Travel, says that it too has had a 10 per cent increase in revenue, largely because of a "cautious return" to the business-class section of the aircraft. "Our

research indicates that downgrading has all but ended, with 85 per cent of business travellers saying there had been no change in their class of travel over the past year and 5 per cent claiming to have gone up in class of travel," he says.

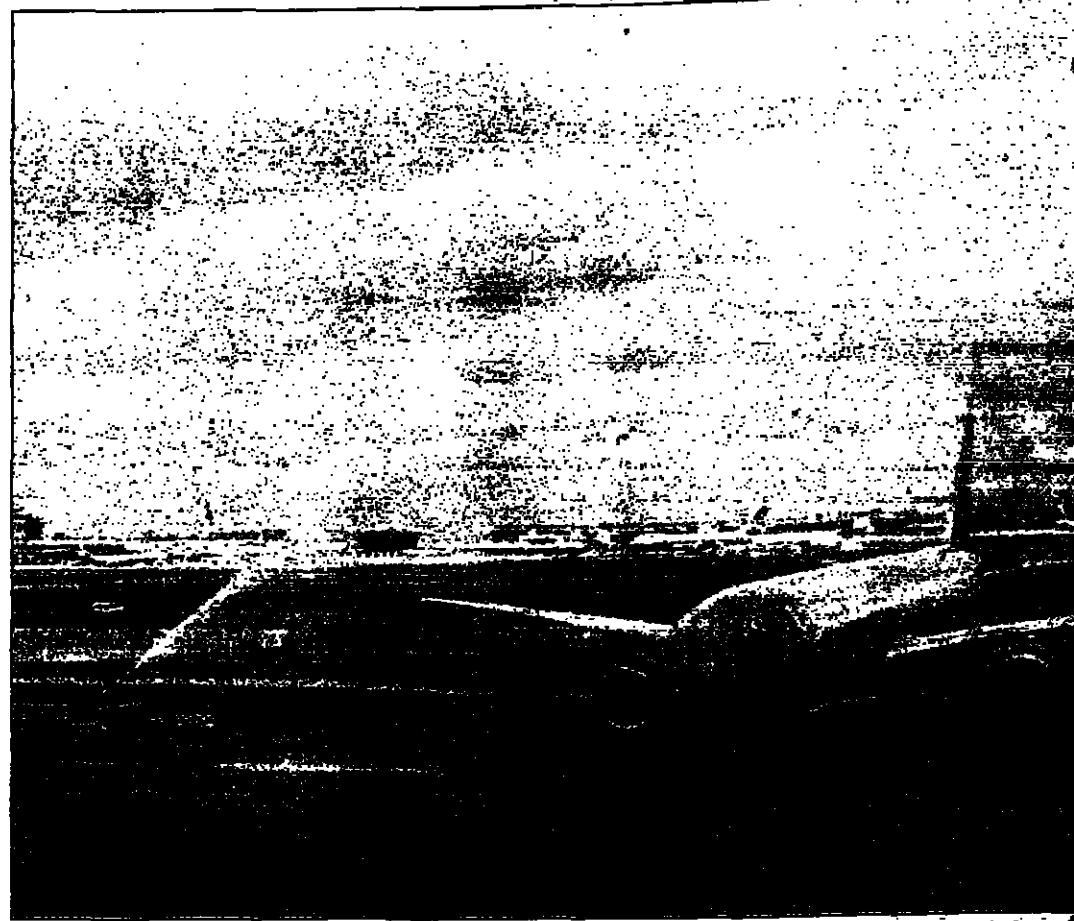
Andrew Wilson, sales director of Diners Club, says that spending overall has gone up by 11 per cent and the amount spent by business travellers on the ground has risen by 12 per cent in the past year.

Despite the growth in business travel, however, companies are still looking for a bargain. Much of the reason for the smiles in so many airline and hotel sales departments is the gradual decline in the easily available discount.

Even a year ago it was still possible for anyone, whether booking individually or through an agency, to obtain a big discount on air fares, especially in business-class. Discounts available to the individual traveller have now virtually disappeared and only those companies large enough to wield



Are you sitting comfortably? On board American Airlines and, right, the first Boeing 777 arrives at Heathrow last week and receives a welcome from the fire brigade.



corporate "clout" can routinely force down the cost.

Among the plays now being used by companies to reduce the total cost of travel is the weekend break. Travellers are urged to spend a weekend in their hotels at the beginning or end of foreign work-

ing trips and often to take their partners along. Because airlines have special offers for visits which include a Saturday night and hotels reduce prices at weekends, often by as much as 50 per cent, it is often cheaper to travel out on a Friday night and relax for the weekend

before starting work on the Monday rather than fly in on the Monday morning and go straight to work.

"The distinction between business and leisure travel is becoming increasingly blurred," says Douglas Geaga, president of the Hyatt

Hotels Corporation. "Many now bring briefcases and personal computers on holiday or swimming costumes and running shoes on business trips."

There is, however, a cloud on the horizon of the otherwise sunny landscape — the Inland Reveque.

As the number of people benefiting from free flights under loyalty schemes rises, so the taxman is raising his eyebrows.

Already many employers are asking why individual staff — and not the company as a whole — benefit from the air miles.

Twenty-five of Britain's leading companies who between them spend more than £500 million on business travel each year have formed a group — the Business Travel Liaison Group — to try to persuade airlines to give the accumulated benefits to them rather than to the individual traveller.

"We all agree that the benefits should come to us as companies," says Andrew Fletcher, the group's chairman from British Aerospace.

"It does not necessarily mean that the companies should get the bonuses. They could, for example, put them into a general pot for sharing among other employees or give them in cash. It seems wrong that individuals should get the benefit."

Travel News, pages 36-37

Just sit back and relax in the flying hammock

The "flying hammock" is the nickname given to latest attempt by British Airways to woo the business traveller with in-flight enhancements. The seat, due to be fitted to BA's Boeing 757 fleet and upcoming 777 aircraft, is being introduced because business travellers are apparently changing in shape, becoming taller and fatter than their counterparts a decade ago.

Features include an extending leg-rest to match thigh length, an adaptable footrest controlled by foot pressure, a new air-bag to support the head when asleep, and a personal, moveable light fitted to the arm-

rest. The seats also recline from hip level to ensure that the passenger's weight is evenly distributed.

BA's major rivals on the North Atlantic route, United and American Airlines, also recently announced enhancements to their business-class products. American Airlines has, for example, decided to fit new seats to its entire fleet of 41 Boeing 767-300 aircraft which predominantly fly the North Atlantic routes. These feature leather and sheepskin upholstery, with adjustable leather headrests.

In first-class, American Airlines claims its seats have the first four-way, electroni-

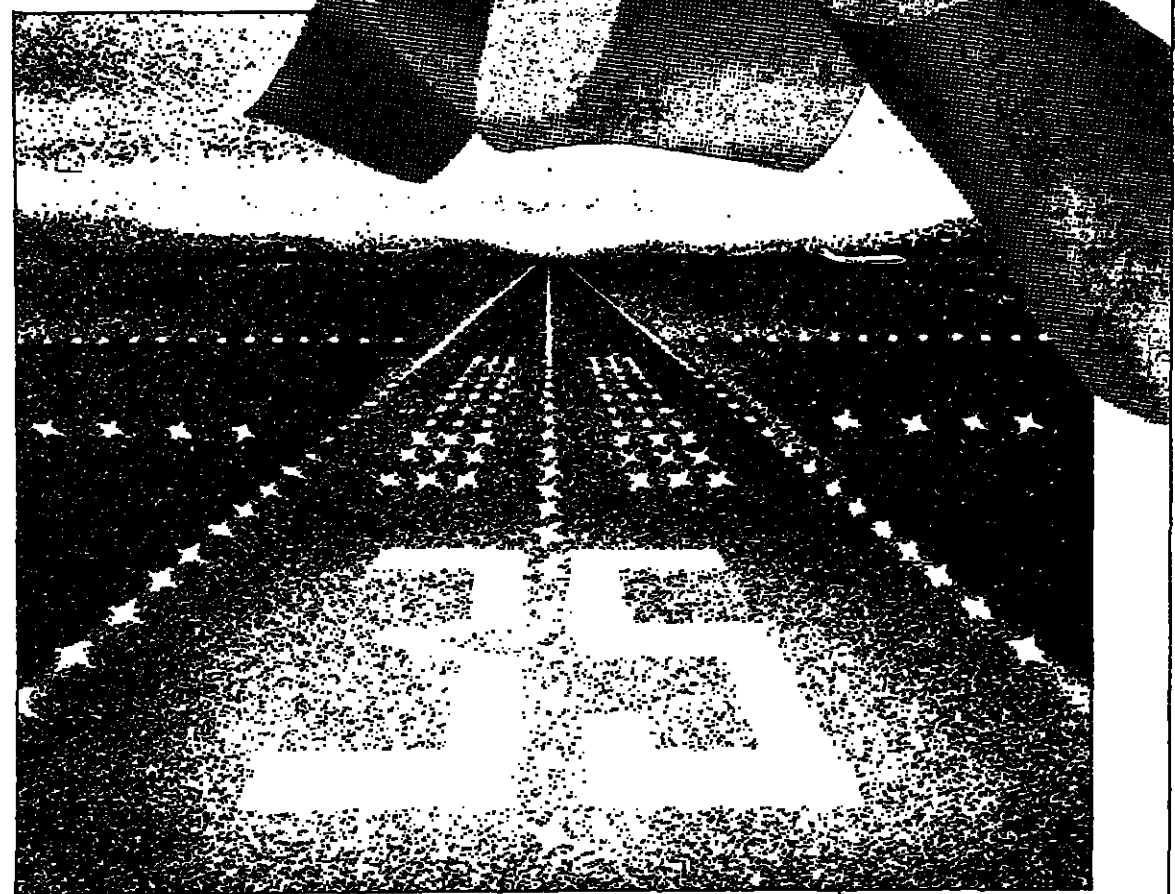
cally-operated lumbar support. Seats in first class also have larger, padded footrests and recline to 60 degrees, about 18 degrees more than the seats they replace. Seats in American's business class now also have two-way lumbar support for the lower back and improved footrests.

While improved business-class seats are a key weapon between the three major transatlantic carriers — BA, United and American — their smaller rivals are increasingly adopting the strategy first devised a decade ago by Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic and dropping first class in favour of providing significantly bigger

seats at business-class prices. Virgin's 60-inch seat pitch (distance the seat reclines) is still the largest, according to analysis of about 68 of the world's major airlines on long-haul routes carried out by the Official Airlines Guides.

This is rivalled by Air Canada whose seat pitch in business class ranges from 55 inches to 58 inches, to Trans World Airlines with 57 inches and Continental with 55 inches. In comparison, the seat pitch in the long-haul business sections of BA, American and United Airlines is just 40 inches.

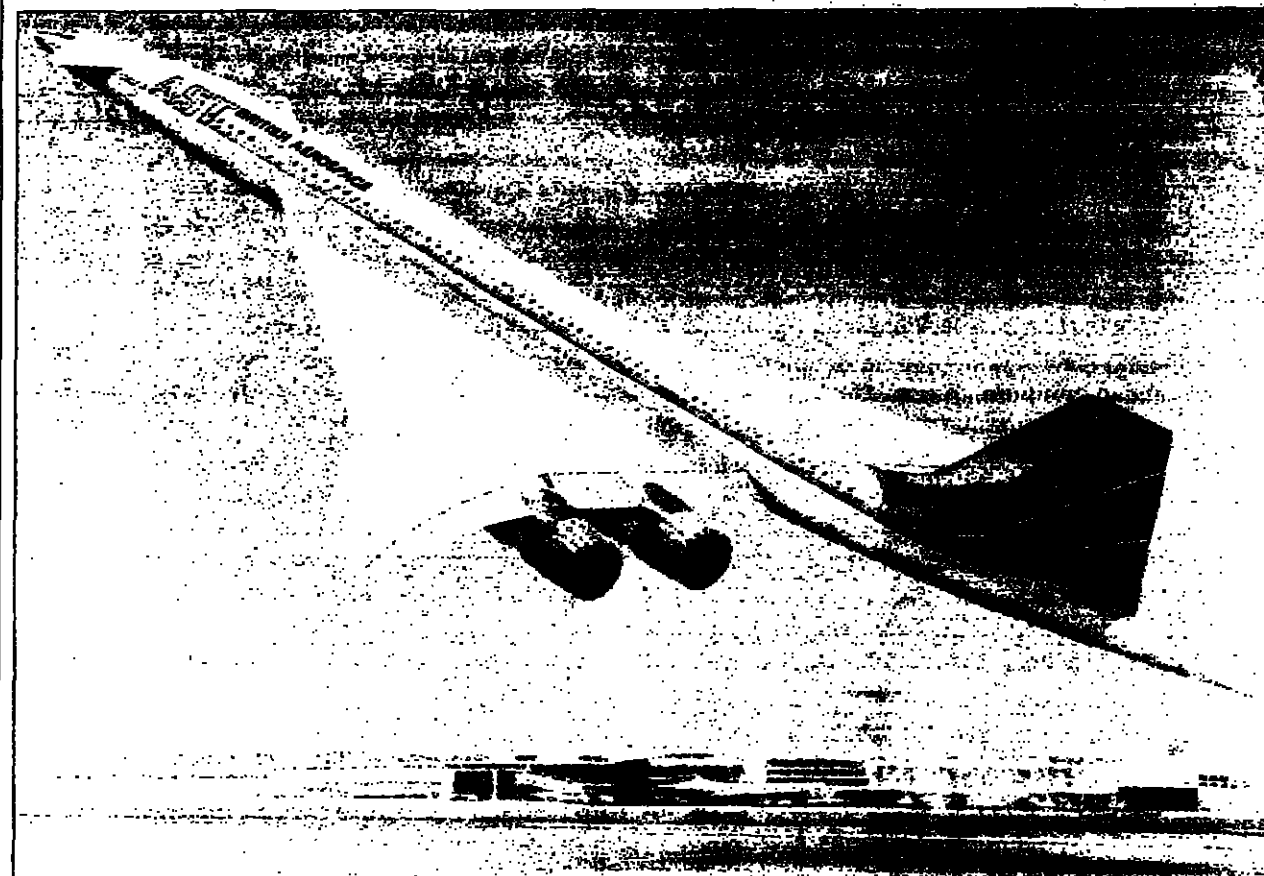
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An artist's impression of Son of Concorde: it will be able to fly non-stop across the Pacific, carrying 300 passengers.

On January 21 next year, the Concorde supersonic aircraft will have been in service with Air France and British Airways for 20 years. The fast lady of the skies is, in aviation terms, well into middle age. But she continues to remain attractive to business travellers, and to her owners, who are considering a successor when the time comes to pension her off.

This enthusiasm on the part of the airlines is not surprising considering the premium fares which the business community is prepared to pay for the ability to streak across the North Atlantic at 1,350mph. London to New York return costs £5,284, compared with a British Airways subsonic economy return in January this year of just over £200.

The airline's justification for its charges for supersonic travel runs as follows: "For a growing band of businessmen, day trips from London to New York and back are scheduled regularly into their diaries. About a fifth of all those on board the daily 10.30am BA001 service from Heathrow to New York will be tucked up in bed back home in the UK by the end of the day."

"Some of them do not even leave the airport building in New York — using the special conference rooms British Airways makes available at its JFK terminal for their meetings. By regular aircraft, such a journey would take two days at least."

Although neither airline will give breakdowns of passenger

When time is money, call for Concorde

Middle-aged she may be, but business people are quite prepared to pay £5,284 for a return trip to New York

or financial figures, supersonic services to New York by both BA from Heathrow and Air France from Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris, are known to be well-patronised and profitable. This is despite higher than usual maintenance costs, and the fact that Concorde's four Rolls-Royce/Snecma Olympus 593 engines guzzle between them 5,638 gallons of fuel an hour.

Washington DC has been a less successful story, however. After starting on the same day in 1976, both airlines have withdrawn services for lack of business, BA as recently as last November. Through its partner, USAir, it now schedules a Dash 8 19-seat, turbo-prop airliner to connect its New York supersonic services with National airport in the American capital.

Another use for Concorde is in the charter market, which remains bigger for British Airways than for Air France. It is estimated that about one-seventh of its annual supersonic flight hours are performed in this sector. Charterers range from round the houses to round the world. One of the most popular excursions is BA's Saturday service between London and Barbados. Although this is a scheduled flight, many of the seats are taken up by tour operators and sold as part of package holidays — seven nights' accommodation, half board and a supersonic flight one way (subsonic return) costs about £2,000.

Keeping Concorde in trim is a tough task for Air France and British Airways. One of BA's seven aircraft is usually in the engineering base at Heathrow undergoing major checks or modifications. Aircraft systems, based on 1960s technology, have become outmoded, and spares are in-

creasingly difficult to obtain. However, the basic airframe has worn well, with little evidence of corrosion. This is partly due to the fact that any water lying inside its structure evaporates as the aircraft skin heats beyond boiling point during flight.

Since the aircraft began to enter service in 1976, their cabins have undergone several facelifts. BA spent £1 million per Concorde last year on new seats, in-flight entertainment systems and galleys. At the same time, Air France refurbished its cabin décor, introduced Limoges tableware, and commissioned Nina Ricci to design new uniforms for the cabin staff.

Although from the start the Concorde project was dogged by political and financial rows, it has been a triumph in technical terms. However, the airframe life of the early aircraft, as determined by the French and British airworthiness authorities, is due to start running out by the end of the century. The two operators, with the French and British manufacturers, are presently working to convince the authorities that Concorde will be safe to fly on until at least 2005.

And beyond that? Aerospace companies in both America and Europe are actively investigating the feasibility of a "Son of Concorde", able to fly non-stop across the Pacific, carrying 300 passengers, by the end of the first decade of the new century.

ARTHUR REED

25 April 1995

When harsh words fly

Arthur Reed
reports on the
continuing
divisions over the
Atlantic route

Airline deregulation is now an accepted fact of life in Europe, but on the busy routes connecting the Continent with North America the airline operators are still heavily controlled as to the cities they can serve and the fares they can charge. Regulation on the North Atlantic routes dates back to the days immediately after the Second World War when British and United States Government negotiators met in Bermuda to thrash out bilateral agreements.

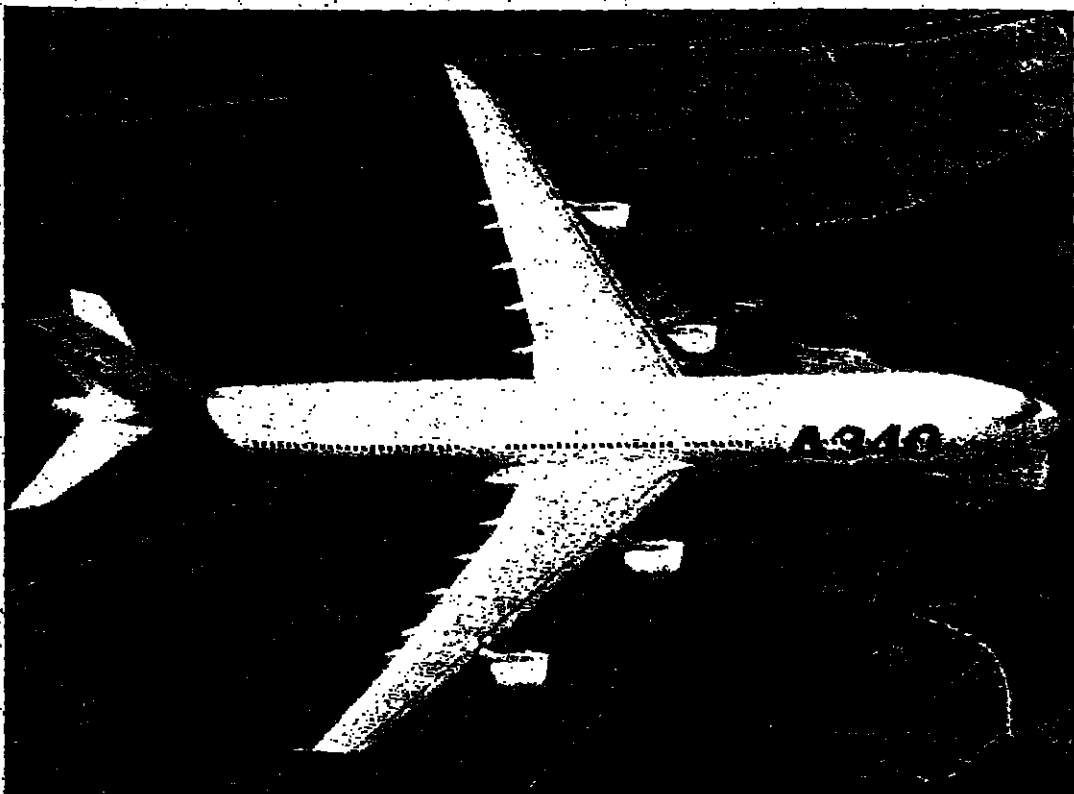
The Bermuda agreement has been amended into Bermuda 2 by the two nations over the intervening years (American and British negotiators have just held a further series of largely unproductive meetings in Washington and London), but many of the major airlines which routinely fly "the pond" continue to complain about it on grounds that it interferes with their freedom to set commercially.

A fierce critic of Bermuda 2 is Robert Crandall, chairman and president of American Airlines. "As a consequence of its constraints, we are unable to offer as many destinations as we would like, either within the United States or beyond Britain to Europe, Africa, and Asia," he says. "Nor can we change prices when we want to, or offer as many flights as we would like on routes we can serve, or fly into the airports our customers prefer."

"It is simply incomprehensible that a full half century after the 1944 Chicago aviation conference, that competitive freedom for the world's international airlines remains an elusive goal."

A traditional sticking point in Bermuda 2 talks has been the desire of the Americans to use Heathrow airport — the world's busiest crossroads for international aviation and already saturated with traffic — for services eastwards.

Equally contentious is the desire of UK airlines, and particularly British Airways, to strike into the heartland of America, with onward



Access to smaller cities on either side of the Atlantic is easier with the four-engined Airbus Industrie A340

Coast gateways of New York, Boston, Washington and Miami.

In the absence of accord on these points, the airlines have devised code-sharing, a system under which two airlines team up to offer through services for passengers. Thus, British Airways can sell a ticket from Heathrow to any of USAir's destinations inside America, while USAir can offer seats on BA's huge network of services to Europe, the Middle East and beyond.

Code-sharing has, however, been criticised for being anti-competitive in forcing smaller, uncombined airlines out of markets, so giving travellers less choice. Critics of the scheme also argue that airlines should, when taking bookings, make it clear to their customers if there is a change of carrier, and aircraft type, involved.

Despite the restrictions imposed by Bermuda 2, there have been considerable changes for the better for the traveller across the North Atlantic over recent years. In 1980, for instance, passengers from Europe had the choice of 14 gateway airports into America, while the whole of Europe offered 15. Ten years later, the respective numbers were 24 and 28.

But there are still those on both sides of the Atlantic who complain that their desire for more services is not being met. Gerald Greenwald, chief executive of the giant American carrier United, expressed "profound disappointment" that the US/UK negotiators did not see fit to grant more international access to the American Midwest, "the most underserved region in the country in terms of international air transportation".

The access to smaller cities on either side of the Atlantic unable to generate sufficient traffic to justify service by a 400-seat Boeing 747 has been made possible by the advent of a new generation of smaller long-haul aircraft, including the four-engined Airbus Industrie A340. Most of these aircraft, however, are twin-jets, and the increasing reliability of the modern aircraft engine has meant that airworthiness authorities have cleared them to fly over long over-water sectors.

The well-being of the passenger has also been improved immeasurably since the pre-jet days — bumpy 17-hour crossings in Stratocruisers, DC-7s and Super Constellations —

when to arrive at the destination airport with all four engines still working properly was cause for comment. On-board telephones, and in-flight entertainment systems are commonplace; fax machines, and the ability to order meals, drinks, duty-free goods, and to access news and stock market prices, via seat-back screens and keypads, are on the way.

Things are also improving on the ground. Airlines are competing with each other to offer smoother check-in, and speedier passage through customs and immigration. Showers and dressing rooms are offered by some at London and New York airports for premium-fare passengers who have flown overnight and need to spruce up for business meetings.

The incidental costs of flying the Atlantic show no sign of abating, however. "Ten years ago, taxes and fees for travel between the UK and America came to less than 1 per cent of the total cost of a low-fare ticket," Mr Crandall says. "Today, that component has risen to nearly 9 per cent, which means that airline customers are paying for lots of non-aviation related assets and services — something we think entirely inappropriate."

Airlines are providing satellite technology for passengers

Leading airlines are competing to turn the business-class seat into an "executive chair". Travellers will soon be able to make telephone calls and send faxes from their seats, book hire cars and hotels, use their laptop computers and obtain such basic services as a cup of coffee and the latest news bulletin.

From August, British Airways will equip a Boeing 747 used on popular long-haul routes with interactive video. This will provide a wide range of entertainment and allow club-class passengers to make phone calls and send faxes via a key pad in the armrest.

Virgin Atlantic is planning to equip its aircraft with the Skyphone system which, in addition to offering a phone and fax service, will enable passengers to make hotel reservations and order flowers and inflight shopping. Malaysia Airlines already operates the MASline system giving passengers in all classes the chance to make calls on international flights.

On some American airlines passengers can receive calls via the GenStar system created by GTE Airfone. The service is available on United Airlines transcontinental flights and will be in operation on more airlines, including Air Canada, by the end

A world at your busy fingertips

of the year. Passengers have been able to make calls from an airline seat on internal flights in America for years. This service has recently become available on BA's SuperShuttle services between London and Manchester, Belfast, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The real revolution will come with the introduction of interactive video systems relying on satellite links. "Passengers are used to a screen on the seatback in front of them, but in future they will be provided with a key pad on which they can type messages or instructions," David Snelling, of BA, says.

These messages can be faxed to the ground but the system has additional possibilities. "It will allow a passenger to play on-screen chess with someone else on the flight, call up a moving map

displaying the flight path or complain to customer relations about the service," he adds.

Regular passengers will be able to call a video agency on the ground to order a film of their choice. It will be beamed to the aircraft, stored in digital form and sent to the required seat — but at a price. The interactive video system, to be introduced in the summer, will become more widely available when BA brings Boeing 777s into service in the autumn.

The airline is less certain about introducing a system for passengers to receive calls and messages. "There is evidence that passengers do not want to be bothered by the office, say, while watching a film," Mr Snelling says. However, the Americans have come up with an answer.

Business travellers, who have subscribed to the GTE Airfone system and obtained personal aircall and PIN numbers, will be alerted to an incoming call when the armrest phone rings and a message appears on the screen. By entering their PIN and swiping a credit card they will see the caller's number displayed on the screen. They can then choose whether to press "Accept Call" or "Exit" to reject the call.

TONY DAWE



Air Canada's executive seats include video screens, satellite telephones and a 55-inch pitch

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Mammoth to follow jumbo

The latest big new passenger jet to be launched arrived at Heathrow last week and may be the last all-new aircraft to be built this century. The twin-jet Boeing 777, in the colours of United Airlines, was seen for the first time in Britain.

The aircraft goes into commercial service with United Airlines on June 7, when flight 921 leaves Heathrow at 11.40am and heads for Washington DC. It can carry up to 440 passengers in economy class, but United Airlines is operating with 292 seats in three classes, each seat having its own telephone, video screen (with six channels of videos and 19 channels of CD-quality audio) and fax/modem point. Video games will follow later.

Research by United Airlines has shown that on short-haul flights, passengers want reliability first; on long-haul flights they want improved on-board amenities and service.

"This aircraft represents the best combination of comfort and technology ever offered to commercial aviation passengers," says Gerald Greenwald, chairman of United Airlines. The Boeing 777 is a successor to the ageing DC-10 and TriStar fleets. United Airlines is also replacing its Boeing 767s across the Atlantic.

Boeing has 144 firm orders, of which United Airlines has 34. It takes delivery of 11 this year, and will operate the aircraft between Heathrow and New York from July. British Airways has ordered 15, with the first delivery arriving in September. The 777 is Boeing's first all-new aircraft for 13 years, and it marks the company's response to Airbus which two years ago displayed three new models: the

Steve Keenan on joint plans for even bigger aircraft for the next century

A340—capable of carrying up to 295 passengers for 7,800 miles—the A330 and the A321. Next year, Boeing plans to unveil a longer-range version of the 777, which will fly 8,320 miles non-stop.

The manufacturers are already working on the next big plane to succeed the 777 and its bigger sister, the 747-400. A stretched version of a 777 is being discussed. This would allow 550 passengers in a one-class configuration.

But a brand new aircraft is also being debated. On the drawing-board are plans from Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Airbus, although there is unlikely to be a race between the manufacturers to develop competing aircraft. The project is estimated to cost up to \$7 billion (£4.3 billion).

The general agreement is that there is a need for a three-deck, four-engine aircraft carrying about 650 passengers in a three-class configuration. Up to 20 passengers would be seated across the aircraft in economy, 12 in business.



A luxury first-class seating section of a Boeing 777

The driving force behind the research is the widely held belief that the number of air passengers will triple within the next 20 years. The latest IATA forecasts show an annual growth of 6.6 per cent between 1994 and 1998.

However, the market for a new super-liner is finite, with only a limited number of airlines operating routes that could sustain their size. Boeing has identified 15 routes—where airlines already have two Jumbo 747s departing within three hours of each other—that could support a super-liner today. They include five from London—New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore. The London-to-Tokyo route is already the second busiest in the world for 747 operations.

However, the airlines have lost \$15.6 billion in the past four years. Hence, there is a desire among airline manufacturers and their customers to combine forces on developing a joint product. "International co-operation is essential to develop an all-new airplane. We could develop derivatives of the 747 but they won't reach economic thresholds," says David Neilson, Boeing's configuration manager.

"We expect that if it goes ahead, it will be more than just Boeing and Airbus involved. The Japanese and the Russians would probably be included."

The implications are enormous: economic pressures, the ability of airports to handle a three-deck aircraft and environmental constraints are basic hurdles. The 777 may be the last all-new aircraft to be built for at least the next 15 years.



After losses climbed to \$110 million, Swissair is handing over services to Crossair

Making the airlines pay in Europe

Subsidies and franchising are making short-haul flights possible

European airlines are emerging from the financial doldrums in which they have wallowed for the past four years, and their new-found confidence and competitiveness should be of considerable benefit to the business traveller.

As a result of losses amassed during the recession, carriers such as Air France and the Spanish national airline, Iberia, have had to ask the European Union for large subsidies. These are in the process of being justified to Brussels.

In return for these hand-outs, the airlines have undertaken to improve efficiency by reducing their staff and aircraft numbers, by making those that remain work harder, and by becoming far more aggressive commercially than in the past.

It is rare these days for passengers paying premium fares on European flights to travel shoulder-to-shoulder, six-abreast, most airlines having taken out one seat in each row. Catering standards and in-flight service are improving and more business check-in desks and executive lounges are being opened at airports.

The EU third aviation liberalisation package gave member airlines the right to fly where they like within the union, at whatever fares they wish to charge—as long as safety is not compromised. This freedom has resulted in some lower ticket prices, particularly on routes where independent airlines, such as British Midland, are competing against established national carriers.

From a position of near-meltdown in the late 1980s, European air-traffic control (ATC) is now organised to deal with flights even though numbers are increasing by about 4 per cent annually. This improvement is due to the investment by European gov-

ernments of large sums of money in upgrading equipment, training controllers and in cutting back on the 30 ATC centres. These can now exchange flight information using high-technology, rather than by using public phones as in the past.

Congestion at many European airports continues to be the main reason for delayed flights. BAA, which operates Heathrow airport, and British Airways, which has its main base there, are fearful that unless a fifth terminal, capable of accommodating 30 million passengers a year, is sanctioned, traffic will switch to Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport, and to Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, both of which have room to grow, and are connected to the European rail network.

As airline operating costs in Europe go up, the big carriers are finding it increasingly hard to make their short-haul services pay. British Airways has franchised several of these to small operators, who paint their aircraft in BA colours, load their timetable details into BA's computer reservations system, and fly with BA flight numbers.

In Switzerland, the national carrier Swissair is handing over all of its services which are operated by aircraft with 100 seats or less, plus the activities of its charter airline Balair, to its low-cost Crossair subsidiary. In its 1993 financial year, Swissair lost close to \$200 million (£110 million) on flight operations in Europe. Moritz Suter, Crossair's president and chief executive, who started the airline in the late 1970s, says: "This is an entrepreneurial decision, which has a lot of risk in it. But those who never risk have no chance. If this proves to be a success, others in the airline industry will follow."

ARTHUR REED

Peace brings aviation boom

Eleven domestic airlines now fly into Northern Ireland

Airlines are flying in to serve Northern Ireland as the businessmen move in and the troops continue to pull out. Steve Keenan writes.

This month, MacAir became the eleventh airline to start service to Northern Ireland from mainland Britain. This time last year there were six. The Scottish airline is flying to Londonderry from Edinburgh, Birmingham and Stansted.

Three other airlines have even been created from scratch to serve Belfast—Genesis Airways from East Midlands, Emerald European Airways from Luton and Air Belfast from Stansted. From May 15, Jersey European Airways takes its air links a stage further when it starts flights between Belfast and Londonderry, also connecting the two cities to Dublin.

The aviation boom means that 11 airlines fly in from 19 cities on the mainland. Heathrow is served by just four domestic airlines. But behind the rush, there is scepticism that the Northern Ireland market can sustain so many carriers. Air UK has pulled out completely, axing its Stansted-Belfast service when Air Belfast joined Jersey European Airways on the route.

About 3 million people flew in and out of Northern Ireland from the mainland last year, half of whom were flying to London airports. But an estimated 100,000 passengers into Belfast international airport were troop movements. Other visitors were business people on a two or three-day trip—but who flew in and out daily for fear of staying overnight.

"My opinion is that the London airports are overserved," Terry Liddard, managing director of BA Express, says. "Whatever happens, there has got to be a clear-out."

The market is just not big enough for this type of capacity.

But others believe the market will grow considerably. The initiative by Jersey European to start internal Northern Ireland flights is stimulated by its huge presence there already. More than

600,000 of its 1.1 million passengers last year went through Belfast. "There is a lot of inward investment in the north-west of Northern Ireland and a lot of companies looking to start up," Barry Perrott, the managing director, says.

Another factor in the growth

is the incentives offered by Belfast International airport. The subject of a £37 million "management buy-out" last summer, it has seen Belfast city airport take 45 per cent of the UK market, but through incentives has attracted Air Belfast, Genesis, Knight Air, Business Air and Emerald.

The intense competition to Northern Ireland has also meant fares kept to rock-bottom, the cheapest being Jersey European's £65 return.

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مكتبة الامارات

Chris Lockwood looks at bonuses for business travellers and the hidden cost of a free flight

A passenger incentive scheme spread through Europe and beyond regular travellers are finding themselves courted as never before. But they are increasingly finding that there is a price to pay.

Most schemes involve free flights awarded for points garnered in full revenue travel, plus a range of gifts, bonuses, car hire and hotel discounts and a dedicated club for business travellers which includes lounge access.

Millions of frequent flyers are ultimately paying the price of restricted choice and possibly poorer service by succumbing to the lure of airline perks aimed at keeping their business.

It is estimated that US frequent-flyer programmes now have a total membership of some 80 million. American Airlines alone boasts nearly 15 million members in its scheme.

By comparison, British Airways — the first European airline to recognise the potential of incentive plans and the competitive damage they can cause to carriers without them — had a programme membership of under 200,000 in its first year of operation.

Virgin Atlantic's Freeway programme has some 120,000 members, which is large for its size considering that Iberia Airlines of Spain had just 100,000 members in its IberiaPlus plan only two years ago.

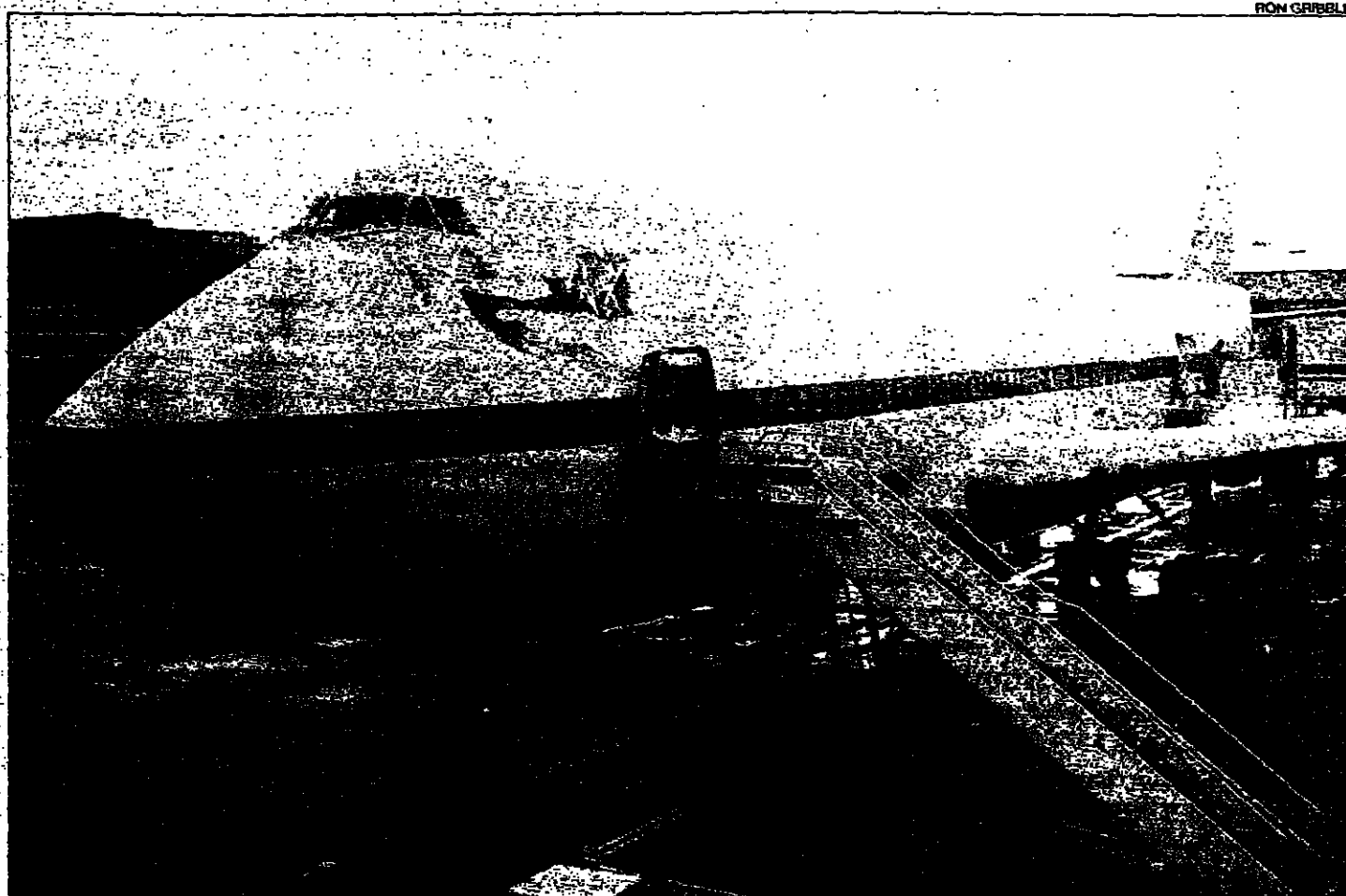
Other European carriers rushed to launch their own incentive schemes, with Air France and Alitalia among the quickest, and SAS, Swissair and Austrian joining in by 1993. Lufthansa, originally held back by German regulations, subsequently joined in.

In the thriving Asia-Pacific market, carriers tried to resist free-ticket offers and other benefits rewarding passenger loyalty, but the combined pressure from American and European rivals virtually forced Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines and Malaysia Airlines into forming their own version.

The two major Japanese carriers, Japan Airlines and ANA, were the last to join the fray in that region. But airlines in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America are still reluctant to join in.

It is tempting to take these offers as a reward for putting up with endless hours of flying, hanging around airports and with solitary nights in hotels in the international search for business. Executives understandably resent being forced to pay full fare in return for the convenience of on-demand flying from point to point without restriction.

The spread of discount fares and advance-purchase packages aimed at the leisure traveller are useless to those to whom time is money. So why not take advantage of the perks and bonuses offered by the



Virgin's California Girl jumbo at Gatwick: the airline's Atlantic Freeway programme has already attracted 120,000 members

Will the taxman grab a slice of air mile perks?

airlines in ever-increasing variety in return for attracting brand loyalty?

There is no reason at all, so long as choice remains the prerogative of the passenger, it is clear to whom the rewards belong, and the taxman continues to turn a blind eye.

But there is the issue of corporate morality to be considered. If an executive chalks up the miles in the course of his duty to his company, who actually owns the accrued benefits — the individual or the firm? If it is a personal benefit, does it qualify for taxation?

While both the American and

European governments continue to weigh up this issue no action has yet been taken, but this does not mean it is not in the wind.

Fears are also being expressed that eventually some carriers may abandon general standards of high service in favour of the more basic transportation concept of American domestic flying. In America, where American Airlines started the game in 1981, there is a tendency to treat the club member as the "proper" passenger and the rest of the flight as "self-loading cargo".

Domestic first-class cabins in America are often crammed with club and incentive-scheme mem-

bers making use of their free mileage. Frequently, these cabins may be solely occupied by free riders, amounting to a serious loss of potential revenue for the airline, and adding to the economic woes of an industry which recently suffered the worst recession since the 1930s.

However, the carriers have created a trap for themselves, for once they start an incentive programme they are unable to leave the field to their rivals who rush to compete. To do so would be to imperil not only an expected bonus for vital premium business but also to give up the advantage of direct access — via membership forms — to de-

tailed passenger travel habits and financial status.

Now, with airlines chasing each other to secure the first-class and business-class passenger, whom they most prize, some carriers are opening up lounges and offering extras such as chauffeur-driven transfers in return for cash rather than incentive loyalty.

There is also the danger that frequent-flyer schemes can create a damaging "class-within-a-class". The standard situation of first, business, or economy class is increasingly confused in long-haul markets by inserting club members at the top end and full-fare economy travellers at the bottom.

There is also resentment among some executives who fly regularly around the world, but not enough in any single carrier's region to qualify for their specific club membership.

However, as the proliferation of incentive schemes continues, it will be an extremely courageous airline which risks customer desertion by failing to participate. Surveys have shown that 90 per cent of American business passengers travelling to Europe and the Asia Pacific region in the past five years belonged to a frequent-flyer programme.

A bed, boardroom and flight check-in, please

Hotels are improving facilities to help travellers to get right on with business

Business travellers staying at the Inter-Continental hotels in Berlin and Frankfurt do not have to worry about making the last-minute dash to the airport to check in when flying Lufthansa. Instead, they can check in at a special desk within the hotels and receive their boarding pass with confirmed seat reservation.

This "checking in while checking out service", as Inter-Continental describes it, is in the experimental stage and applies only to those booked on Lufthansa flights with hand baggage. But it is an experiment being closely watched by other hotel groups, some of whom are contemplating their own trial schemes as they recognise the close link between their traditional customer base and those of the airlines.

We want to make travelling simpler and more attractive for business people," Heinz Strobl, senior vice-president for Inter-Continental, says. He is not alone: James Farrow, European sales and marketing vice-president for Hilton International, reports a growing trend among business travellers to stay at airport hotels rather than face the hassle of getting in to town and then back to the airport of whichever country they are in.

In addition, he says that "as the emphasis placed on management's time and effectiveness increases, so we are finding that many companies with regional offices scattered around the UK and overseas are choosing to host meetings and conferences at airport hotels".

The growing importance of airport hotels is reflected by the fact that the leading international hotel chains are all now focusing on airports, having largely eschewed them in the past. Inter-Continental, for example, has never operated an airport hotel in its almost 50-year history. Next year, however, the chain plans to open its first airport hotel at Schiphol, Amsterdam.

The problem was that we have always been very firmly

targeted at business travellers staying in top city centre destinations and so we simply ignored airports," Robert Collier, joint managing director, says.

But market research proved that it had made a mistake. "Our frequent international business travellers wanted the option of an Inter-Continental airport hotel as much as they wanted city centre hotels," Mr Collier says.

Inter-Continental, now owned by the Saison group of Japan, is not alone in targeting airport hotels. The American-owned ITT Sheraton has also made clear its change in emphasis, recently opening a Sheraton at Genoa airport in Italy with 384 rooms. It is also refurbishing its Sheraton Heathrow property. This will include the addition of health and leisure facilities as well as an all-day restaurant.

Another American-owned chain, Hyatt Hotels, has also decided to develop airport hotels in Europe and opened its first at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport. The 388-room Hyatt Regency follows the Hyatt tradition established in America with a 21-metre-high glass atrium in its lobby. Hotels are not just moving physically closer to the airlines. Virtually all the top chains — with the exception of Forte — offer airline mileage points to frequent guests as a means of persuading them to stay.

Marriott hotels, for example, has linked up with British Airways Air Miles scheme, offering 50 Air Miles every time a BA Executive Club member stays in a Marriott hotel, with a bonus of 250 miles for every fifth stay. BA Gold Executive Club members can also be enrolled in Marriott's Black Level of its frequent guest programme, Club Marquis, without having to stay the required 50 nights a year in a Marriott hotel. This gives members automatic upgrades to executive levels and other benefits, including special rates and in-room gifts.

DAVID CHURCHILL

'Companies are now hosting conferences at airport hotels'

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JANET BUSH 27

Time for Chancellor
to say goodbye

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Anthony Hopkins
cannot save
an epic bore

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THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 27 1995



Square-head members of the Institute of Directors settle down to a working lunch at their annual conference at the Albert Hall yesterday

Lord Young
defends top
salary levels

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LORD YOUNG, chairman of the privatised Cable and Wireless, yesterday strongly defended the pay of executives in the privatised utility companies.

The former Conservative Trade and Industry Secretary, who earns £948,000 a year, told the annual conference of the free-market Institute of Directors, of which he is president, "Enterprise is not greed." It had transformed nationalised industries.

He cited the "British Airways of old, the airline that gave customer-care an entirely new meaning", the "British Leyland of old, which turned Monday and Friday cars into an art form", and the "British Telecom that gave you a line when they felt like it — if they felt like it".

Lord Young said privatisation should not be knocked: "It has created the enterprise that has transformed our economy and our lives and is sweeping the world."

Labour leaders have made huge political capital out of the high rises in boardroom pay, and Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the IoD, said that Labour would win a General Election if it were

held today. On Tuesday, he said that British business largely expected a Labour Party under Tony Blair to win the next election.

Speaking to journalists at the IoD conference at the Albert Hall, London, Mr Melville-Ross said: "If you had an election today, of course the Labour party would win."

His view may cause unease among some of the IoD's membership. Some large companies whose directors are IoD members, including Hanson, have privately made clear their unhappiness about some of Mr Melville-Ross's other statements, including those on the debate over top corporate pay.

Mr Melville-Ross's latest statement takes even further the public acknowledgement by industry leaders of Labour's electoral attraction. It follows the establishment by a range of key business figures of a commission to examine industry-government relations in a move widely seen as business preparing itself for a potential Labour government.

IoD conference, page 24
Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS
TODAYSTOCK MARKET
MOVES

FT-SE 100	3226.2	(+11.3)
Yield	4.23%	
FT-SE All Share	1550.39	(+4.51)
Nikkei	16858.49	(-84.05)
New York	6256.35	(+3.84)
Dow Jones	511.87	(-0.43)
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	6 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	102 1/4%	(102%)
Yield	7.34%	(7.32%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gil	104 1/4%	(103 1/4%)
Libor 3m		

STERLING

New York	1.6105	(1.6123)
London		
DM	1.6111	(1.6185)
DM	2.2184	(2.2051)
FF	7.8287	(7.7867)
FF	1.6338	(1.6291)
Yen	125.14	(122.59)
E index	84.7	(84.1)

DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.3775	(1.3720)
FF	4.8225	(4.8365)
FF	1.1385	(1.1314)
Yen	94.05	(92.10)
E index	88.0	(86.8)

TOKYO CLOSING

Tokyo close	Yen 82.75	
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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (AOL)	\$18.20	(\$18.25)
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GOLD

London close	\$388.05	(\$389.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

EC agents
fight to
newsprint
makers

By Martin Waller

THE European Commission has ruled 40 newsprint companies in the EU this week, after receiving complaints about price fixing from governments and consumers in seven EU countries.

One of the companies visited on Tuesday was the UK subsidiary of Abitibi-Price, the Canadian newsprint producer. The London sales office of Abitibi-Price, the world's largest supplier of newsprint, was visited by two officials from the Office of Fair Trading and two from the European Commission's competition watchdog.

The company said the four officials spent most of the day making photocopies of material ranging from newspaper prices and marketing strategy to distribution and travel itineraries. Abitibi has two sales people in London and sells about £26 million a year of newsprint in Britain and a similar amount in Europe. It has no mills outside North America.

Raid also took place in Scandinavian countries. Karel van Miert, European Competition Commissioner, refused to comment about the duration and likely outcome of the investigation. At a news conference, he said: "This is about investigating possible anti-competitive behaviour on the basis of complaints we have had. No more, no less."

Under EU law, a company can face a fine of up to 10 per cent of its annual turnover, if found guilty of price fixing. But in practice, the fines are usually below that.

Pennington, page 25

Clarke rejects rate
rise to help pound

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent, in Washington

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, said yesterday that he had no intention of raising interest rates purely to support sterling.

"There is no question of changing interest rates to get an exchange-rate result as far as Britain is concerned," he said in Washington while attending a meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, are next week to hold their monthly monetary meeting amid strong speculation in the City that they will agree on another half-point rise in base rates. At the March monetary meeting, Mr George "expressed" concern about the weakness of sterling and suggested that if the currency were to stay weak or become weaker, it would be a matter for monetary policy.

Mr Clarke yesterday said that the level of interest rates would be set by requirements of the Government's inflation target and that the pound was only one of the indicators at which he would look.

The Chancellor went further and said that the US, too, would not alter its stance on interest rates for currency reasons. Before this week's international meetings, including the Group of Seven on Tuesday, the US had come under pressure to raise interest rates to defend the dollar.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said this week that he believes that the US economy is heading for a "soft landing" and that inflation remained low.

Mr Clarke yesterday acknowledged that there are many similarities between the American and British economies and that Britain, too, was seeking a soft landing.

The US and Britain both made clear this week — and won other G7 finance ministers over to their view — that

the solution to recent turbulence lies not in short-term policy action, but in getting long-term fundamentals right.

The Chancellor said that one of the most important policies for G7 countries to pursue is continuing efforts to cut budget deficits. Yesterday, he gave qualified agreement to the IMF judgment on Britain that tax cuts would depend on public spending cuts.

"Tax cuts have to be earned by delivery of public spending control. Whether we need extra cuts I don't know," he said. He would be looking at this question as officials and ministers prepare for the next public spending round.

Mr Clarke told the IMF's interim committee yesterday that the crisis in Mexico was "a reminder of how costly it can be to allow economic imbalances to persist until markets finally force the necessary adjustments". A key lesson for industrialised countries was

that they must grasp the "nettle of fiscal consolidation".

He said that the world economy has every prospect of securing stable sustainable growth with low inflation and that, in his judgment, the recent volatility in financial markets had not yet seriously undermined these hopes.

Mr Clarke said a consensus was forming around the British view that surveillance of economies such as Mexico by the IMF must be strengthened.

He proposed that the IMF be more frank in advice to member countries, not giving undue weight to their sensitivities as in the past; that countries provide better financial information; that the IMF be more selective in its surveillance, concentrating on perhaps 30 to 40 countries in which events could have a global impact; and that the IMF form a unit to evaluate surveillance standards.

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Economic View, page 27

P&O chief's package
surges to £656,000

By George Sivel

LORD STERLING, chairman of P&O, the shipping and construction group, enjoyed a pay rise from £534,000 to £656,000 last year, boosted by a rise in a performance bonus from £113,000 to £136,700.

P&O's pre-tax profits fell from £520.6 million to £349.5 million, but 1993 figures were boosted by £216 million of profits from disposals.

Meanwhile, Queens Moat Houses, the struggling hotels

group that is presenting restructuring plans to debenture holders and shareholders at meetings today and tomorrow, said it paid its board of three executive and three non-executive directors £1.6 million for 1994, including bonuses of £345,000. The company lost £115 million in the year.

Andrew Coppel, chief executive, was paid £465,258, including a £125,000 bonus.

IoD conference, page 24
Pennington, page 25

Big rise

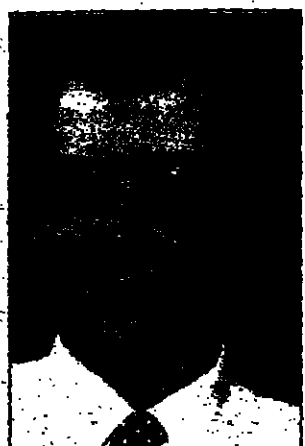
Bank of Scotland's staff will receive an average £1,907 each in June as part of the bank's £26.7 million profit-sharing scheme, under which 14,000 of the bank's 15,573 employees will receive 13.7 per cent of their salary. The scheme was triggered after the bank increased its pre-tax profits by 67 per cent over the past year. Page 25, Tempus 26

High cost

Leeds Permanent Building Society has spent nearly £6 million to date on its proposed merger with the Halifax, which is understood to have run up a similar bill. Page 24

N&P waits to hear from the Abbey

By Robert Miller and Caroline Merrell



Lyons: lacks concrete plans

LORD SHUTTLEWORTH, chairman of National & Provincial, the building society at the centre of a bid by Abbey National, repeatedly told more than 200 N&P investors at the society's annual meeting yesterday that he had not received any concrete proposals from the Abbey. The venue of N&P's meeting had to be switched to accommodate the extra numbers.

Few N&P members attending the meeting pressed Lord Shuttleworth or Alastair Lyons, N&P's chief executive, on the widely quoted bonus deal of £650 for N&P's 1.7 million

qualifying members if the Abbey deal goes ahead.

Frank Neelham, general secretary of the N&P staff association, said he was very concerned about job losses, particularly in the Bradford area.

Phyllis Mallinson, a pensioner and a member of both N&P and the Abbey, said of the proposed bid: "I like the idea. The Abbey is a forward looking bank."

George Mountford, a member of the N&P and its predecessors for 30 years, said: "I imagine that in the end the market will comprise of only a dozen or so large

building societies. I would hope that as many people as possible will be slotted in any merger." He added after the meeting that he was satisfied with the answers he had received from N&P directors.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Lyons said of the Abbey bid: "All we have is Peter Birch of the Abbey National saying he'd like to discuss a bid at a meeting which will take place next Monday. Until then, I know nothing more as I have not seen any concrete proposals of any sort."

Leeds bill, page 24

Will youth know its playstation in life?

By Martin Waller

SONY, the Japanese corporation that cursed the world with the Walkman, will today start its next big assault on the finances of parents across Europe. The gadget that will have a million households in thrall by the end of the year, the company hopes, is the Playstation.

Simon Palmer, a small British advertising agency that is no stranger to controversy, is being awarded the £30 million campaign to sell the Playstation across Europe, having beaten off three big American-owned competitors.

The Playstation is Sony's bid to

replace Super Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog in the fickle affections of youth. Claimed to pack the number-crunching power of a £2,000 computer into a box selling at less than £200, it is one of at least three devices that by autumn will be battling for the £3 billion European computer games market.

Simon Palmer is the agency that put Eric Cantona on billboards around Britain shortly before the Manchester United striker achieved greater prominence this year for his attack on a Crystal Palace fan. It has also engineered a highly abusive confrontation between Greenpeace and the Ford motor company over

exhaust pollution. Paul Simons, the chairman, is threatening an equally controversial campaign to propel Sony's new product into the minds of young people.

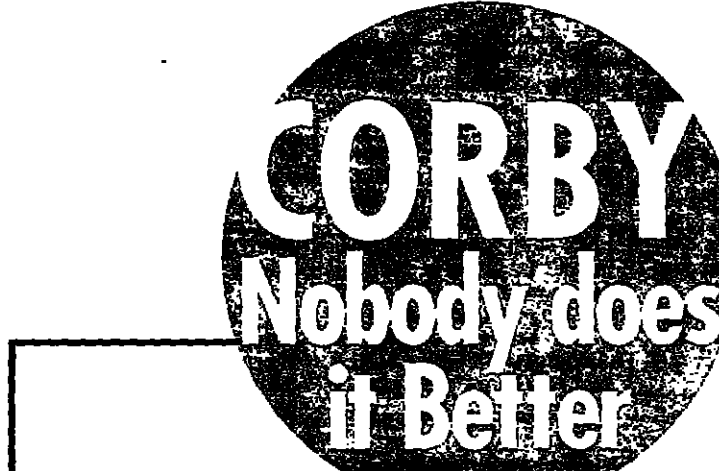
"We're worried we might end up with problems with the regulatory authorities over whether the campaign will run or not," he says in the tones of a man looking forward to a good bar-room brawl.

One of his problems is "pestering power", the planting of desires in young minds that parents find too expensive to satisfy and a practice frowned on by the bodies that regulate the advertising profession.

Squaring up to the Playstation are

the latest products from Sega and Nintendo, the two Japanese concerns that have dominated the computer games market. Yet another Japanese-backed product, 3DO, part-owned by Matsushita and AT&T, the American telecoms combine, is coming up fast on the rails.

Parents already baffled by all this new technology can expect their bewilderment to deepen even as their bank balances lighten once the new generation of games consoles reaches the market in the autumn. "My worry is that we're headed for three or four years of techno-confusion," says David Tabriz, multi-media analyst at Durlacher, the broker.



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Polly Peck payout date set

Creditors of Polly Peck International, the collapsed lemon-and-electronics empire of Asil Nadir, are in July set to receive their first dividend payment since the company's receivership in 1990.

This follows a 99.9 per cent vote by creditors yesterday in favour of a plan to distribute funds. The "yes" votes represented creditors with claims totalling £1.4 billion. After the court's sanction, creditors will be asked to lodge claims up to May this year within two weeks.

The estimated dividend of about 1.1p in the pound on these claims will be equivalent to a 2p dividend on October 1990 claims. Chris Barlow of Coopers & Lybrand, the administrator, said one or two distributions would probably follow, with the amounts dependent on the sale of remaining PPI assets and claims on third parties.

Bespak slides

Shares in Bespak fell 50p to 253p after the aerosol components firm said 1995 results would include a charge against a contract with Innovata Biomed for the commercialisation of a dry powder inhaler. Bespak may be required to pay minimum royalties of about £2 million a year for the next eight years. Bespak is also considering cost-cutting in the US that will initially cut profits by up to a further £800,000 this year. In 1994 it made pre-tax profits of £7.10 million. **Tempus, page 26**

Chrysler move

Kirk Kirkorian has written to the Chrysler chief executive saying shareholders should be allowed to vote on his \$25 billion takeover bid. He proposes transferring 20 per cent of the company to its employees and 5 per cent to its managers or Chrysler could increase the annual dividend to \$5 a share from the present \$1.60.

Jourdan in red

Thomas Jourdan, the consumer products holding company, reported a pre-tax loss of £3.47 million in the 12 months to December 31, (£129,000 profit). In spite of a loss per share of 19.4p, the proposed final dividend of 0.75p, makes a total of 1.25p (1p).

Lionheart loss

Lionheart, the paintbrush and home improvement company, reported a pre-tax loss of £6.16 million in the 12 months to December 31, (£1.77 million profit). The loss per share was 3.37p (0.49p earnings). No dividends will be paid (0.3p).

Peugeot ahead

Peugeot Talbot, the British arm of the French PSA Peugeot-Citroen car conglomerate, last year earned pre-tax profits of £9.5 million (£10.6 million loss). Turnover jumped 5.3 per cent to £1.7 billion.

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Preliminary Results

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER	1994	1993
Turnover	\$47.7m	\$44.6m
Profit before tax	\$3.9m	\$0.2m
Earnings per share	8.6p	(1.6p)
Dividends per share	2.5p	1.5p
Net assets per share	92p	88p

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:

- ◆ Substantial increase in Profits, Earnings and Dividend.
- ◆ Listing for Eastern Highlands Plantations Limited.
- ◆ Proposed Listing for Langdons Foods Plc.
- ◆ Good prospects for the current year.

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Bosses braced for rise in rates to cut out inflation

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

INTEREST rates may have to rise to avoid "roaring" inflation, the Institute of Directors declared yesterday. The warning from the free-market IoD, in the run-up to the interest-rate meeting next week between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, contrasts sharply with the insistence by the Confederation of British Industry that current inflationary pressures do not demand any further rate rise.

Tim Melville-Ross, addressing the annual conference of the IoD, of which he is Director-General, said that Britain must "doggedly" pursue non-inflationary policies until inflation is squeezed out of the system.

Mr Melville-Ross told the 2,000 IoD members gathered in the Albert Hall, London: "Let me put it bluntly. This may mean higher interest rates. And if it's a choice between that or roaring inflation, we must accept the need for higher rates, and build this possibility into our business planning."

Attacking the prospect of a single currency in Europe, he said that Britain was seeing a "good" economic recovery, though he was critical of the lack of investment that would be necessary to sustain long-term non-inflationary growth.

Having said in *The Times* yesterday that business generally expects Labour to win the next election, Mr Melville-

Ross attacked the Conservatives for the "highest peacetime tax hike in history", which had meant that people had not yet felt the benefits of economic recovery. Anti-investment capital and inheritance taxes must go in this year's Budget, he said.

Support for higher interest rates if rate increases become necessary came from Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways.

Advocating "slow, sustainable growth", he said: "If Britain needs to use the reins

of the Bank of England, it must be used to support the Conservative's policy of 'highest peacetime tax hike in history', which had meant that people had not yet felt the benefits of economic recovery. Anti-investment capital and inheritance taxes must go in this year's Budget, he said.

Hugh Jenkins, chief executive of Prudential Portfolio Managers, praised the UK's current economic performance. But he also predicted that there would be a further rise in interest rates if it became necessary.

He said: "The 'feel-good' factor may be missing, but I am bound to say that these are unusually good times for our economy and British companies."

Britain's ejection from the European exchange-rate mechanism had proved to be an "economic triumph", he said, and he added that the "new-found, near-independence" of the Bank of England "means that interest rates are likely to rise at the first sign of excess demand or inflationary pressure—as we have already seen."

Such a "vital change" in the way monetary policy was conducted had to be good for Britain's economy.

John Towers, chief executive of Rover, warned industry against complaining about interest rates or the Government and urged it instead to improve its own performance in achieving higher productivity, effectiveness and quality.



of interest rates and taxation to keep inflation from galloping away, that is my preferred option.

He told the conference: "Certainly, we do not want a return to the boom-bust cycles of the past. British investors, workers and their customers have had too many bumps and scares from the economic roller-coaster to want to queue up for that particular ride again."

He joined the IoD's leader in attacking the European



Podiums apart: Michael Heseltine and Lord Young view Europe from different horizons, maintaining Tory divisions

Europe at the heart of Tory division

By Our Industrial Editor

SENIOR Conservatives were still sharply divided over Europe yesterday, with Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, urging a halt to "whingeing" against Europe, while Lord Young, a former Cabinet minister, calling on business to attack more dynamic markets beyond the Continent.

Mr Heseltine combined his strong support for Europe with equally firm criticism of the performance of many British companies. Too many were outperformed by companies in Germany, Europe's strong economy, he asserted. One of the Government's leading pro-Europeans, Mr Heseltine mounted a defence of Europe before a conference

heavy on Eurosceptics. Insisting that the UK's "home market" was now the European Union, he said: "We need to work constructively in Europe. Nobody wins by simply whingeing." While he accepted that Europe was a base from which to attack Asian markets, he said that the market share of UK companies had not been eroded by low-cost Asian economies but from "high-cost, well-paid Western European, North American and Japanese companies". It was not good enough, he said, that Britain had the best macroeconomic conditions for decades. While the best UK companies were among world leaders, Britain still had the "fundamental problem of too many poorly-performing firms". He added: "It is averages that count and the UK has a

long tail of under-achievers." The competitiveness White Paper would set out further steps needed to address the issue.

But Lord Young, president of the IoD and chairman of Cable and Wireless, said that Britain does and would always sell more to the world beyond Europe. If Europe insisted on burdening itself with costs such as those from the Social Chapter, the "local market will not be interesting for years to come", he said. He urged businesses to look at the Far East, India and South America.

But Peter Sutherland, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, said Europe was central to global development. "It surprises me how some people in Britain fail to make this connection."

House sales remain 40% below peak

By Robert Miller

HISTORICALLY low house prices are failing to tempt buyers back to the market, and if the ratio of house prices to personal incomes is to move back on track to its previous long-term average, prices need to rise by 30 per cent from their current level.

The Housing Finance Review, published yesterday by Nationwide Building Society, says that house prices rose by 1.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1995, compared with the previous quarter, and prices are now 0.5 per cent lower than they were in the first quarter of 1994.

Nationwide said that taking further data from the Corporate Estate Agents Property Index into account, net sales were almost 17 per cent down in the first three months of 1995 from the year-earlier period. Turnover in the housing market remains 40 per cent below its 1988 peak.

The Nationwide, the second-largest building society, said that fears over job sec-

urity remained a factor undermining confidence. The society added: "The fragility of market confidence, together with recent rises in mortgage rates and the impact of further personal tax increases to be implemented in 1995-96 appears to have undermined the hoped-for recovery in the market this spring. . . . Against this background, further rises in interest rates would be unhelpful and potentially damaging to the housing market."

One of the main factors holding back recovery prospects is the stock of repossessed properties that still overhangs the market. Figures published by the Lord Chancellor's Department yesterday show that the number of mortgage possession actions entered in the courts of England and Wales in the first quarter of 1995 was only 3 per cent lower than the comparable period last year. In the first quarter of this year, 21,338 mortgage possession actions were entered and a total of 18,810 orders made, of which 11,063 were suspended.

Christopher Grimshaw, a director of Chesterton International, a firm of surveyors, said: "House-price inflation as we know it over the past 30 to 40 years has, in my opinion, stopped. In the future, prices are likely to be held down by a policy of fluctuating interest rates to control inflation to a level that at least is in line with the economy generally."

Pennington, page 25

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.32	2.15
Austria Sch	16.57	15.07
Belgium Fr	48.50	44.20
Canada \$	2.31	2.15
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748	0.891
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mk	7.43	6.78
France Fr	8.25	7.50
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	378.00	353.00
Hong Kong \$	13.14	12.14
Ireland Pt	1.04	0.98
Israel	5.2742	4.5242
Italy Lira	2625.00	2670.00
Japan Yen	147.50	131.50
Malta	0.599	0.544
Netherlands Gld	2.631	2.401
Norway Kr	10.55	9.75
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.42
Spain Pta	205.00	192.00
Sweden Kr	12.47	11.87
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	ref.	66414.0
USA \$	1.713	1.583

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Hats off: Edward Bentsall, left, chairman, and John Ryan, finance director, said profits at Bentsalls, the department stores group, rose to £2.5 million in the year to January 28 from £1.7 million, after strong trading over Christmas and the January sales period

Leeds-Halifax bill at £12m

By Our City Staff

LEEDS Permanent Building Society has spent nearly £6 million to date on its proposed merger with the Halifax. It is understood that the Halifax has run up a similar bill.

The Leeds, which yesterday unveiled a record 13 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £140.2 million, said that the bulk of the merger bill had been spent on four mailings to 3.5 million members and legal costs in seeking court approval for the merger with the Halifax.

The Leeds results were boosted by a 50 per cent drop in bad debt provisions to

£30.9 million, although total income fell by 4.7 per cent to £271 million.

In the six months to March 31 the society's assets rose from £19.9 billion to £21.3 billion, of which £310 million came from the recent acquisition of a mortgage portfolio from the London & Manchester Group. Malcolm Barr, chairman of the Leeds, said: "This is a very creditable financial performance and a tribute to the strength and resilience of the Leeds."

Documents relating to the Leeds merger with the Halifax, together with voting

forms, have already been mailed to the combined membership of 10 million people. Postal votes must be in by May 15. Members can attend the special meetings of their respective society to be held on May 22. Provided members give their approval, the merger will be completed on August 1.

The proposed bonus payout of free shares, which is expected to be worth about £650, will be issued when the merged entity, known as The Halifax, comes to the stock market within the next two years.

South African drive for profitable LDV

LDV, the vanmaker that emerged from the wreckage of Leyland Daf in 1993, reported sharply improved profits and announced that it had formed a partnership in South Africa. Pre-tax profits were £18.3 million in its first full year of trading, against a profit of £7.1 million for eight months in 1993. Turnover was £150.5 million, compared to £63.7 million.

The company produced 12,500 vehicles last year, giving it about 12 per cent of the British van market, and expects to produce 15,000 this year. Employment has expanded to 1,250 from 950 over two years. In South Africa, LDV has formed a partnership with AAD, a Johannesburg vehicle maker. LDV will deliver vans in kit form to AAD, which will assemble and distribute them in South Africa and neighbouring countries. The arrangement involves no financial risk on LDV's part.

Mirror out of Channel 5

MIRROR GROUP NEWSPAPERS and NBC, the American TV network, have dropped out of the race for the Channel 5 franchise that reaches its climax on Tuesday, the deadline for all applications to the Independent Television Commission. The decision to withdraw comes because NBC, the driving force behind the consortium with Mirror Group, took the view that the risks involved in putting down a large cash bid for Channel 5, did not match the possible rewards.

NatWest buy for Lloyds

LLOYDS BANK has bought NatWest's global custody business for £16.9 million. The acquisition of NatWest Investment Services will increase total assets under custody at Lloyds Bank Securities Services to £110 billion from £93 billion. The acquisition will give Lloyds a 20 per cent share of the independent custodian market for UK pension funds and unit trusts, second to Royal Bank of Scotland. Most of the 300 staff have been transferred to Lloyds Bank Securities Services.

Philips issues warning

CURRENCY turbulence hit Philips Electronics, the Dutch group and Europe's biggest consumer electronics company, prompting it to issue a warning about profits and sales performance for the rest of this year. But Philips shares rose on the Amsterdam bourse in response to what were seen as strong first-quarter results. Net profit on ordinary operations more than doubled to 544 million guilders (£221 million) and there was a 200-million guilder extraordinary gain.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 27 1995

□ Heseltine recants on industrial policy □ The lingering problem of repossessions □ Paper producers as PacMan

Low costs are not enough

□ MICHAEL Heseltine broached unimpeachable truths about the quality of British industry in his speech to the Institute of Directors yesterday. "It is the averages that count and the UK has a long tail of under-achievers," he said. "You know it, I know it. Survey after survey shows it." In spelling this out, however, he undermined central features of industrial policies over the past decade.

Companies have been encouraged to be lean, low-cost and strategically defensive operations, not least by long periods of high interest rates and by the experience of two deep recessions. To survive, companies have needed to minimise fixed costs, mostly of employed staff, but also research and capital spending on expansion or new products. Under the permanent crisis mentality, the continuous drive to cut costs has become central rather than a natural adjunct to market development.

The average company, having been bitten twice, is shy of ambition, of committing its capital to higher sales or new markets. Such pressures are shrugged off by exceptional companies. But they dominate the industry. Institutional investors reinforce these attitudes. They dominate government thinking, which puts labour flexibility before teamwork, low wage costs before teamwork, de-

regulation ahead of high standards.

The economy's much improved performance shows the virtues of a leaner, fitter low-cost Britain. Along with language advantage, it has helped make Britain the favourite for inward investment by manufacturers seeking a foothold within the European single market.

Mr Heseltine's stark message, however, was that Britain's share of many of its top 80 international markets had been eroded by high-cost, well-paid continental, North American and Japanese companies rather than the cheap labour economies of the developing world. Germany lives with the sort of Social Chapter costs and rigidities that British business lobbies such as the IoD view as ruinous. Japan lives with an ever-rising exchange rate. Britain devolves.

As Mr Heseltine notes, German companies have overcome higher costs by higher productivity "producing top quality products that people want to buy". That is not an argument for Germany's high costs. But it is an argument for Government to

orchestrate a culture that pushes world-beating new technologies and encourages world-beating companies.

Japan would not have assaulted British Gas. Germany and Scandinavia saw the advantage of being first to improve environmental standards so that its industries could then scoop the world market. Neither would have destroyed domestic bus and railway supply industries by ignoring them in privatisation plans. The Government plans another White Paper on competitiveness next month. With luck, it will display the lessons Mr Heseltine has personally learnt.

Houses of cards

□ ONE of the grimmest statistics about the lingering effects of the recession is the continuing high level of mortgage repossessions. Figures yesterday showed that the courts dealt with more than 21,000 repossession actions in the first three months of the year, only 3 per cent lower than a year ago. At this rate, more than



75,000 homes will be repossessed this year, the equivalent of an entire county town.

Such an astronomical figure looks difficult to justify considering that the recession ended more than two years ago, that interest rates were at record lows last year and unemployment has fallen sharply. Unless lenders have been behaving extremely recklessly, most people should be able to afford the mortgage payments they committed themselves to when they bought their houses or flats. Yet every week hundreds of families are still being forced to leave their homes.

The root of the problem is the failure of the housing market to stage a real, prolonged recovery

since prices slumped between 1990 and 1993. While prices have stabilised, they have done little more than that, as Nationwide's house price survey showed yesterday. The lack of capital growth has prevented troubled mortgage borrowers from refinancing and wrapping up their arrears in an enlarged loan secured on their house. While borrowers may have been able to keep pace with the interest on their loans, many have not been able to repay the arrears they ran up during the recession when interest rates were at their peak. In these cases, they have struggled on for years, merely postponing an inevitable repossession.

The recent rise in mortgage rates and the reduction in Miras will inevitably worsen the plight of many borrowers and ensure that the courts continue to rub their stamp a stream of repossessions. The signs that house prices are once again going into reverse are likely to make lenders even more nervous, although ironically it is a flow of repossessed properties on to the market that is helping to depress it. With people still

suffering the after-effects of recession so acutely, it is hardly any wonder that consumer confidence is still so fragile.

Pulp facts and fiction

□ WHETHER the massed ranks of Inspector Clouseaus from the European Commission who took part in yesterday's dawn raids will succeed in busting the wicked cartel of European paper producers is a moot point. Past experience would suggest any eventual fines are unlikely to be as high as the rulebook allows.

But the probe on paper-makers, after complaints from purchasers in various countries, apparently not including Britain, highlights what has been one of the themes running through the recent reporting season for 1994, the mismatch between production and demand as the economy emerges from recession. Like the quarry in the old computer game PacMan, which was at times allowed to turn briefly to eat its tormentors, the producers of

such bulk materials as paper, chemicals and building products are given occasional windows when a shortage of their products allows them to devour their customers' profit margins.

In the paper industry, this window has been lengthened and widened by the earlier actions of Scandinavian and Finnish producers who had neither the cash nor the inclination to invest at the bottom of the cycle. The papermakers claim that the price rises merely reverse earlier falls, but the figures are inconclusive. In Britain, the average price being paid is now £330 a tonne, against £293 two years ago. In 1989, the listed price was £425 a tonne but the actual figure was reduced by heavy discounting, a practice that saw listed prices go by the board over the next few years.

Pecking order

□ AFTER more than four years, Polly Peck's creditors are finally due to recover some of their money, a princely 2p in the pound of the £1.4 billion they lost. The cost of this "dividend" is around £23 million. The costs of the insolvency so far have been £34 million, as accountants and solicitors have scoured around the world realising the group's assets. Who wants to be a creditor at times like these?

Staff shares in Bank of Scotland's £450m profit

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANK of Scotland's staff will receive an average £1,907 in June as part of the bank's £26.7 million profit share scheme, under which 14,000 of the 15,573 employees will receive 13.7 per cent of their salary.

The scheme was triggered after the bank increased its pre-tax profits by 67 per cent to £49.7 million in the year to February 28.

The dividend for the year has been increased by 15.25 per cent to 5.82p a share, including a final payment of 3.69p, due on July 7. The increase in profits was helped by a 29 per cent fall in bad debt provisions to £221.5 million.

Peter Burt, treasurer and chief general managing director of the bank, dismissed speculation that it might be one of the third parties in talks with National & Provincial Building Society.

Asked if the bank might be interested in acquiring a building society, he said: "We remain ambivalent. There are pros and cons to buying at this point in the cycle."

The bank took a cautious approach to provisioning. Its general provision of £33.8 million was made up of £13.8 million, based on its standard formula applied to the increase in risk assets, and an additional £20 million "for prudential purposes".

At the end of the year the general provision was £179.8

million, up from £145.9 million. Mr Burt said it was likely specific provisions will remain at a higher level than in the past.

"Life is becoming more uncertain," he said. "Our business is a little slice of other businesses. If their business becomes more volatile, ours becomes more volatile."

Mr Burt said the bank had increased its share of the mortgage market, with a rise in the size of its mortgage book to £6.6 billion from £5.8 billion.

The main contributor to profits was the Scottish clearing bank, where pre-tax profits were 76 per cent higher at £295.6 million.

Three of the bank's operations changed their year-end to come into line with that of the group on the recommendation of the Bank of England.

NBS Bank increased profits by £14.3 million for the 14-month period compared with £77.1 million. British Linen Bank reported £13.2 million for 13 months compared with £10.8 million. Kellogg, its factoring company, made £4.2 million for 14 months compared with £2.4 million. Countrywide Banking Corporation, its New Zealand bank, made £21.6 million in 14 months compared with £15 million.

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DFS lifts hopes of buy-back

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

DFS, the cash-rich furniture group, raised hopes of a share buy-back or special dividend payment to shareholders yesterday after it said it would be seeking authority to purchase its own shares.

Graham Kirkham, chairman, said the group had no immediate plans to buy any shares, but wanted the option to do so if it would enhance earnings per share. DFS had cash balances of £28.5 million at the end of the first half, up from £16.5 million last year.

Pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £15.1 million in the six months to January 28, up from £10 million in the corresponding period last year.

Mr Kirkham said the group had never been in better shape in spite of the worst trading environment he had experienced during his 26 years in the industry. Nevertheless, sales rose by 11 per cent.

DFS plans to open up to 20 stores over the next three years to add to its 29 outlets. It believes there is the potential for a chain of 100 stores.

The interim dividend is lifted by 15 per cent to 2.65p (2.3p) and will be paid to shareholders on June 20.

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JJB Sports beats its target

By OUR CITY STAFF

JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer which came to the market last November, yesterday unveiled a 66 per cent rise in profits, significantly above its flotation forecast.

The group, with 126 stores mainly in the North, made pre-tax profits of £7.59 million in the year to January 31, up from £4.58 million in the previous period and against a £6.60 million flotation forecast. The maiden final dividend, payable July 3, is 2p, a third higher than the 1.5p payout proposed in the flotation prospectus.

David Whelan, the former Blackburn Rovers footballer who chairs the company, said the group had deliberately been conservative in its profit estimates, but had still been surprised by the strength of demand over the crucial Christmas trading period. Total sales rose 47 per cent during the year with like for like sales up 14 per cent.

Last year 27 stores were added and a further 30 are planned this year. Mr Whelan said the group planned to open up to five out-of-town stores, a first for JJB. The stores, of between 15,000 and 20,000 sq ft, will stock a wider range.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

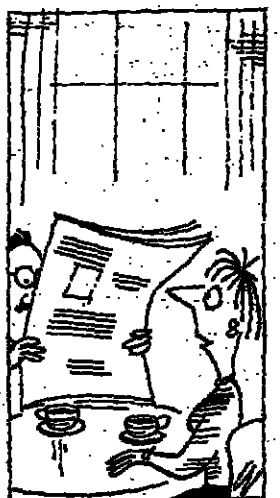
Locked in a timewarp

THE Isle of Man is a mere stretch of water from the mainland and is, I am assured, on the same time as London. Not that you would think so when dealing with the 10M Barclays branch, and not if you are trying to credit an account with Thomas Cook dollar traveller's cheques. A London-based customer, aware that it takes two days to clear a sterling cheque and three days to clear a foreign cheque, was told by Barclays 10M it would take three weeks to clear a deposit of \$11,000 — even though the signature and the identity were not in doubt. Even Thomas Cook found that delay hysterical, pointing out that traveller's cheques, like a bankers' draft, are usually cleared within five days. Barclays 10M offered the customer an interest-free overdraft to cover the period of negotiation. Meanwhile, back on the mainland, my source deposited \$11,000 into his own account and was credited within eight days.

Cut to order

GONE are the days when banks are accused of providing too little information. Bank of Scotland was thrown into a panic early yesterday when the Stock Exchange refused to accept its results because they were "too long". The figures were scheduled to appear on the news information service at 7.30am. After a quick edit, they finally appeared at 8am.

REMARKS by Lord Young of Giffordham when introducing Peter Sutherland, the first head of the newly formed World Trade Organisation, at the 10M jamboree in London yesterday, clearly struck Irishman Sutherland as something of a downer. Talking about free trade agreements was likened, by the noble lord, to reading out telephone directories.



"Which building society will my money be in this morning?"

Language lesson

A FEW weeks ago, Brunswick, Shandwick and other PR agencies vying for the Deutsche Telekom privatisation account groaned loudly on learning that Dewe Rogerson had submitted its proposal in German. They're still groaning, as well they might. Yesterday Dewe Rogerson was the iterative contract, said to be worth \$1 million, to handle the investor and public relations for the upcoming £6 billion privatisation, even though its 30-page proposal was said to be riddled with grammatical errors. Flattery, it seems, will get you everywhere in Bonn.

Capital prices

IN THE week preceding VE Day, the London Capital Club will serve the original menu of May 8, 1945, at 1945 prices. Oysters 10/- per dozen; hare, pie 2/6d; and semolina pudding at 6d (equivalent of 25p). "Food Control Order. Bread to be served by request only. Until further notice, sale of port limited to one glass per member per day."

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW JANET BUSH

Time for Clarke to reject old European puritanism

The Chancellor went down well in the US this week, but risks restricting growth unless he remembers America

Kenneth Clarke was on excellent form when he addressed the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York this week, basking in the relative safety of an audience far from home.

Much of his speech was tailor-made for an American audience, extolling the virtues of the market and weighing in against European-style dirigism. He glancingly spoke of the Mexican financial crisis and of the collapse of Barings and dismissed calls for more government intervention and regulation.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also spoke about Europe more freely than he is now allowed to in his own country. Mr Clarke's Euro-sceptic colleagues would have been surprised and a little delighted by his instinctive alignment with the Anglo-Saxon approach of America to a host of economic and financial issues rather than the approach of his continental counterparts.

He acknowledged to his appreciative transatlantic audience that there were some "slight cultural clashes" between Britain and Europe. British Ministers, he said, were more pragmatic in policy affairs, asking: "What the devil does this mean and what are the practical consequences?" In contrast, he said, a European Minister could talk seriously for an hour on any one subject and a Briton would be none the wiser as to what he meant at the end of it. Cue laughter in the glitzy ballroom of the Plaza Hotel.

All of this was good after-hunch entertainment, but something of the cultural divide that the Chancellor was describing was evident in the verbal negotiations before this week's meetings of the Group of Seven and the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Clarke's serious message in New York, repeated at the G7 meeting on Tuesday, was that governments have little power over short-term movements in the markets, that transaction taxes would put at risk the enormous benefits derived from the free flow of capital and that intervention is only ever likely to have a marginal effect and then only if it is backed up by sound longer-term economic policies.

In contrast, French officials talked of there being a high chance of serious co-operation in the G7 to stabilise the currency markets. In the middle of the domestic dispute between Jacques Chirac and the independent Bank of France, one senior commentator actually called currency policy a moral issue.

Another Frenchman in a different context — Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the IMF — criticised the Clinton Administration and the US Federal Reserve in high moral terms, saying that it was the duty of the guarantors of the world's first reserve currency to support that currency and calling on the Fed to raise interest rates.

There was fury from German quar-



Edmond Alphandery, the French Finance Minister, and Kenneth Clarke

ters, too, with Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, telling the US that its policies were unacceptable. Japan, a little tentatively, also chimed in, but mindful of how bad-tempered bilateral trade negotiations on cars have become, Tokyo was careful not to over-egg the pudding.

All this moral outrage against America had disappeared by the time the rich countries' club had gathered in Washington. Perhaps the bombast was little more than rhetoric for domestic consumption. Those who complained the loudest were those countries that were having to explain to their electorates the pain being meted out by over-valued currencies.

Perhaps there really is a secret Plaza-style accord that will hit the markets when they are least expecting it. Much more likely, all of the G7 Finance Ministers agree with Mr Clarke that there is little to be done in the short term about currency movements and that the best option was to appear platitudinous. The G7 have

had plenty of practice at that strategy in recent years.

However, the real reason for the evident politeness in Washington this week is that those countries with weak currencies — the US and Britain prime among them — have none of the worries and all of the clout. A sea-change in the world economy is now being played out in the geopolitics of the Group of Seven.

Take France... It is topsy-turvy ideology that the franc is a moral issue but unemployment is not

The crucial change is inflation.

In the Seventies and Eighties, inflation was the demon that everybody had to commit themselves to fight. Weak currencies were undesirable because they invited higher inflation; strong currencies were a useful anti-inflationary tool.

All that has now been turned on its head. The American economic expansion has been fast and prolonged, backed up by persistently low interest rates until the last year, and there has been hardly a sign of inflationary pressure. In Britain, too, the recovery was more rapid than most expected last year and what inflation there has been

is the direct result of higher indirect taxes imposed by the government.

In terms of the external balances that the G7 referred to in its communique on Tuesday night, the weak currencies of the US and Britain have been enormously positive forces for good. Courtesy of sterling's deep devaluation since its ERM days, Britain is, as the IMF described it in its world economic outlook, enjoying virtual current account balance.

On internal balances — budget deficits — Europeans preaching to America seems somewhat rich. The US budget deficit as a percentage of GDP is much lower than is the case in many economies in Europe. Moreover, unlike many European governments, the US understands that healthy growth is a prerequisite of real deficit reduction.

Mr Clarke would do well to emulate his fellow Anglo-Saxons in this regard. The latest figures for the public sector borrowing requirement showed what a threat to deficit reduction slowing growth poses. Taxes came in lower than forecast in every category as the recovery is reined in by higher interest rates, designed to snuff out marginal rises in inflation.

The European puritanism on parade before these meetings is out of date, based on the fears of the last great economic problem. Europe's continuing obsession with fighting inflation means that it will be far more difficult to tackle the underlying structural problems that, in the end, became the core of the communique because this is all that could be agreed on.

Take France as an example. It has a very low inflation rate, a very high deficit, an excruciating level of unemployment and an absolute commitment to a strong currency. It is a measure of the topsy-turvy of the current European ideology that the franc is a moral issue but unemployment is not.

Mr Clarke himself must guard against this "If it ain't hurting, it ain't working" school of economic management when, next week, he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to discuss interest rates.

The Chancellor currently fits in a halfway house between his Anglo-Saxon instincts and his European ones. He likes the free market and is enjoying the fruits of a truly floating exchange rate, but he cannot quite bring himself to follow fully the Fed's example and interpret the economic tea leaves generously with a bias towards growth.

For all his rapport with his New York audience this week, he still wants to qualify for Maas-tricht and European Monetary Union — another of yesterday's issues — and is in danger of skewing policy towards a lower-than-possible growth path because of the priorities of deficit reduction and inflation fighting.

The US position this week is instructive for next week's monetary meeting. If the Fed is not prepared to raise rates against the grain of its own economy (slowing and low inflation), why should Britain (slowing, low inflation)?

If Mr Clarke wants one more interest rate rise to convince the markets of his anti-inflationary credibility, why not make clear next week, as the Fed did, that the peak of the interest rate cycle has now been reached?

Foreign exchange dealers may not like it initially, but they will eventually sort themselves out. The market, as this week's G7 meeting showed, is not the only constituency that policy makers need to address.

South Africa prepares for privatisation

A year after the elections, Jon Ashworth looks at South Africa's financial fortunes

Thousands of revellers will gather on Cape Town's Grand Parade today to celebrate Freedom Day — the first anniversary of South Africa's historic elections. In the words of the locals, it should be quite a joll (party).

But not everyone will join in the fun. A few miles away across the Cape Flats, shanty dwellings cover the landscape for as far as the eye can see — a reminder of ever-present economic and social pressures. Tourists gazing from their window seats as they come in to land at Cape Town airport, will be only too aware of this "other" South Africa.

So it is hardly surprising that the much-vaunted wave of foreign money has yet to arrive, in spite of the apparent buzz of activity. Firms from London to Wall Street have rushed to open representative offices. Dozens of familiar names are back, including Kodak, Sara Lee, PepsiCo, IBM and Procter & Gamble. Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers has 58 per cent of the Argus newspaper group. BMW has invested R100 million (£20 million) in upgrading its plant near Pretoria, and Vodafone is cashing in on the booming market in mobile phones. But the majority remain on the sidelines.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) remains a talking point, with the Government apparently sticking to its aim of funding massive spending on electricity, water and housing by diverting money already available to it.

6 Firms from London to Wall Street have opened offices

The first year of democratic rule has been one of mixed fortunes. South Africa's inclusion on the various emerging market indices has worked wonders for the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), where about a third of the turnover can now be ascribed to foreign fund managers. Fall-out from the Mexican crisis — the so-called Mexican Slammer — knocked 14 per cent off the value of the JSE in January, but it has since recovered about half its losses. The JSE all-share index grew 9 per cent in the year to March 31.

The Government's seeming determination to pursue sound fiscal policies has paid off, with underlying inflation running at about 8 per cent, well down on the double-digit figures seen in the Eighties. The consumer price index hit 10.2 per cent in March, compared with 9.9 per cent in February, according to figures released yesterday, but remains within forecasts.

Other figures out yesterday showed that South Africa's monthly trade balance dipped into deficit in March for the first time in decades, as imports surged and exports slumped. The monthly trade balance fell to a deficit of R570 million in March, compared with surpluses of R315 million in February

rather than relying on foreign handouts. Eskom, the power utility, brought electricity to more than 300,000 households last year, and is expected to connect a further 350,000 to 400,000 homes this year. Progress on other fronts is slower, but the right noises are being made.

There is a new item on the agenda: privatisation. Top of the list is Telkom, the monopolistic telecommunications operator. Fleming Martin, the broker, thinks Telkom will be listed on the JSE within the next two years. Other favourites include Eskom and South African Airways. Privatisation would provide billions of rand towards the RDP, but analysts do not expect much to happen in the next two to three years.

Then there is tourism. South Africa has a massive shortage of hotel rooms, and there is scope for Hyatt and other new entrants. Infrastructural upgrades are planned, starting in 1996 with a new runway and terminal at Cape Town airport. Fans flying in for the Rugby World Cup will bring valuable hard currency with them, and who knows... next time they might come back with a factory or two.

Eric Reguly reports on power privatisation problems

Nuclear sale still politically risky

The privatisation of Nuclear Electric, with or without Scottish Nuclear attached to it, looks viable on paper. Costs are down, productivity is up and its five advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs) and single pressurised-water reactor (PWR) are considered among the best plants of their kind. Both Nuclear Electric and Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, who will discuss the privatisation today during a Cabinet meeting, are pushing hard for the sale.

While many of the commercial problems that killed the previous privatisation effort, in 1989, have been fixed, the political risks loom as large as ever. Labour has vowed to fight the sale, and it appears it has sufficient ammunition to be taken seriously. "If they think the sale is politically cost-free, they're in for a nasty shock," said Brian Wilson, Labour's industry spokesman. Labour and other critics argue that the privatisation is nothing more than a cynical ploy to finance pre-election tax cuts. In the long term, taxpayers cannot win because Nuclear Electric's liabilities will remain with them.

Nuclear Electric cannot be sold as its stands now. The



Jeffrey fears job losses

good bits — the six modern plants — will be hived-off and sold, leaving the first-generation Magnox plants behind. These old monsters are being decommissioned over the next few years, though one may last until 2010; six of the eight Magnox plants in England and Wales still operate.

Nuclear Electric has estimated that about £9 billion will be needed to remove and store Magnox fuel and dismantle the buildings. The vast majority of the cost is being financed by a 10 per cent tax on electricity bills, known as the fossil fuel levy.

But there is no certainty that shutting the plants actually

will cost £9 billion. "That's completely unproven," said Mr Wilson, and even Nuclear Electric insiders admit the figure is intelligent guesswork at best. "It could be less, it could be more," said one.

Furthermore, the levy may become smaller than expected. John Major said the Government may abolish the levy next year to gain support for the privatisation. A White Paper on the sale, due to be published after next week's local elections, is expected to make the point that the levy can disappear early because enough funds already have been collected to meet the decommissioning costs and that, because of engineering advancements, the estimated costs have come down.

But, post-privatisation, what incentives exist to ensure costs are kept to a minimum? At the moment, Nuclear Electric has every incentive to keep costs down because the liability is on its books. Post-privatisation, it is someone else's problem.

Another political hurdle is getting Scottish Nuclear on board. The Government wants to put the two companies together to make the privatisation more attractive

to investors. Scottish Nuclear has two modern AGR plants — its single Magnox plant has been shut — and it makes money. The company reported this week that net profits more than doubled to £150 million from £72 million in 1994-95.

But Scottish Nuclear does not want to be part of the package. Robin Jeffrey, chief executive, said: "Bundling the two companies together like this can only result in job losses in Scotland."

City analysts think it might be possible to float Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear separately, but doing so would be complicated. Nuclear Electric probably would have to hand two AGRs over to Scottish Electric to ensure the latter is big enough to float. Doing so would drag out the privatisation timetable and make a smaller Nuclear Electric less attractive to international investors.

If the Government scraps the fossil fuel levy next year, leaving a £2 billion shortfall, Nuclear Electric will need Scottish Electric more than ever. Much of the deficit could be recovered by including Scottish Nuclear in the privatisation. Nuclear Electric alone may fetch £2 billion; together they might raise £3.5 billion.

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Sentry Farming Group plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with Registered No. 1211241)

Introduction to the Official List
by
Peel, Hunt & Company Limited
of

the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Sentry Farming Group plc

The business of Sentry Farming Group plc is farming, farm management and farm advisory work covering both arable and livestock enterprises. The group has a client base of farmers and both institutional and private landowners and in total is involved in the farming of some 50,000 acres.

Authorised		Share Capital		Issued and fully paid	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
2,500,000	10,000,000	Ordinary Shares of 25p each	1,417,451	4,298,264	
100,000	100,000	1990 Redeemable Shares of £1 each	-	-	-
100,000	100,000	Redeemable 12.5% (net) Preference shares of £1 each	-	-	-
200,000	200,000	1994/95 Redeemable Convertible 12.5% (net) Preference Shares of £1 each	200,000	200,000	

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Sentry Farming Group plc
The Hall, Wingham
Ipswich, Suffolk
IP8 4SL

Peel, Hunt & Company Limited
62 Threadneedle Street
London EC2N 2HP

27th April 1995

Wall Street takes edge off London

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS	
Barclays Bank	125.00
Bank of Scotland	110.00
Bank of Ireland	105.00
Bank of England	115.00
Bank of America	120.00
Bank of Montreal	118.00
Bank of New York	122.00
Bank of Tokyo	119.00
Bank of West	117.00
Bank of Wales	116.00
Bank of Cyprus	114.00
Bank of Greece	113.00
Bank of Spain	112.00
Bank of Portugal	111.00
Bank of France	110.00
Bank of Italy	109.00
Bank of Germany	108.00
Bank of Netherlands	107.00
Bank of Belgium	106.00
Bank of Luxembourg	105.00
Bank of Switzerland	104.00
Bank of Austria	103.00
Bank of Czech Republic	102.00
Bank of Slovakia	101.00
Bank of Hungary	100.00
Bank of Poland	99.00
Bank of Czechia	98.00
Bank of Slovenia	97.00
Bank of Croatia	96.00
Bank of Serbia	95.00
Bank of Montenegro	94.00
Bank of Albania	93.00
Bank of Bulgaria	92.00
Bank of Romania	91.00
Bank of Moldova	90.00
Bank of Ukraine	89.00
Bank of Belarus	88.00
Bank of Russia	87.00
Bank of Kazakhstan	86.00
Bank of Kyrgyzstan	85.00
Bank of Uzbekistan	84.00
Bank of Turkmenistan	83.00
Bank of Tajikistan	82.00
Bank of Georgia	81.00
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Bank of Azerbaijan	5.00
Bank of Armenia	4.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	3.00
Bank of Armenia	2.00
Bank of Azerbaijan	1.00
Bank of Armenia	0.00

DISTRIBUTORS	
British Airways	120.00
British Petroleum	115.00
British Telecom	110.00
British Virgin Islands	105.00
British Virgin Islands	100.00
British Virgin Islands	95.00
British Virgin Islands	90.00
British Virgin Islands	85.00
British Virgin Islands	80.00
British Virgin Islands	75.00
British Virgin Islands	70.00
British Virgin Islands	65.00
British Virgin Islands	60.00
British Virgin Islands	55.00
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British Virgin Islands	45.00
British Virgin Islands	40.00
British Virgin Islands	35.00
British Virgin Islands	30.00
British Virgin Islands	25.00
British Virgin Islands	20.00
British Virgin Islands	15.00
British Virgin Islands	10.00
British Virgin Islands	5.00
British Virgin Islands	0.00

BREWERIES	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
Stout	80.00
Tottenham	75.00
Wheat	70.00
Yeast	65.00
Beer	60.00
Wine	55.00
Spirits	50.00
Cider	45.00
Soft Drinks	40.00
Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS	
British Airways	120.00
British Petroleum	115.00
British Telecom	110.00
British Virgin Islands	105.00
British Virgin Islands	100.00
British Virgin Islands	95.00
British Virgin Islands	90.00
British Virgin Islands	85.00
British Virgin Islands	80.00
British Virgin Islands	75.00
British Virgin Islands	70.00
British Virgin Islands	65.00
British Virgin Islands	60.00
British Virgin Islands	55.00
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British Virgin Islands	45.00
British Virgin Islands	40.00
British Virgin Islands	35.00
British Virgin Islands	30.00
British Virgin Islands	25.00
British Virgin Islands	20.00
British Virgin Islands	15.00
British Virgin Islands	10.00
British Virgin Islands	5.00
British Virgin Islands	0.00

PHARMACEUTICALS	
Abbott	120.00
Amgen	115.00
Baxter	110.00
Boehringer	105.00
Glaxo	100.00
Novartis	95.00
Pfizer	90.00
Schering	85.00
Schering-Plough	80.00
Schering-Plough	75.00
Schering-Plough	70.00
Schering-Plough	65.00
Schering-Plough	60.00
Schering-Plough	55.00
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Schering-Plough	25.00
Schering-Plough	20.00
Schering-Plough	15.00
Schering-Plough	10.00
Schering-Plough	5.00
Schering-Plough	0.00

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
Stout	80.00
Tottenham	75.00
Wheat	70.00
Yeast	65.00
Beer	60.00
Wine	55.00
Spirits	50.00
Cider	45.00
Soft Drinks	40.00
Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

SUPPORT SERVICES	
British Airways	120.00
British Petroleum	115.00
British Telecom	110.00
British Virgin Islands	105.00
British Virgin Islands	100.00
British Virgin Islands	95.00
British Virgin Islands	90.00
British Virgin Islands	85.00
British Virgin Islands	80.00
British Virgin Islands	75.00
British Virgin Islands	70.00
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British Virgin Islands	30.00
British Virgin Islands	25.00
British Virgin Islands	20.00
British Virgin Islands	15.00
British Virgin Islands	10.00
British Virgin Islands	5.00
British Virgin Islands	0.00

PRINTING & PAPER	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
Stout	80.00
Tottenham	75.00
Wheat	70.00
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Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

MINING	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
Stout	80.00
Tottenham	75.00
Wheat	70.00
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Beer	60.00
Wine	55.00
Spirits	50.00
Cider	45.00
Soft Drinks	40.00
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Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

LEISURE & HOTELS	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
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Cider	45.00
Soft Drinks	40.00
Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

PROPERTY	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
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Soft Drinks	40.00
Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

TELECOMMUNICATIONS	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
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Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

TEXTILES & APPAREL	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
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Spirits	50.00
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Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

OIL & GAS	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
Stout	80.00
Tottenham	75.00
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Spirits	50.00
Cider	45.00
Soft Drinks	40.00
Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

OTHER FINANCIAL	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
Miller	90.00
Pilsener	85.00
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Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
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Flour	0.00

RETAILERS, FOOD	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
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Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

RETAILERS, GENERAL	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00
Heineken	100.00
Kaiser Brewery	95.00
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Soft Drinks	40.00
Tea	35.00
Coffee	30.00
Chocolate	25.00
Candy	20.00
Ice Cream	15.00
Pastry	10.00
Bread	5.00
Flour	0.00

WATER	
Adnams	120.00
Beck's	115.00
Carlsberg	110.00
Guinness	105.00

Steven Bruck calls for a halt to diversity

Fig leaf of restraint falls

AS THE supply of chartered accountants has increased (from 40,000 in the English Institute in 1964 to 107,000 today), so their appetite for an extension to their activities has grown.

While the audit, which historically was the backbone of the profession, has become a cut-price, and somewhat discredited, product sold as a loss leader, so chartered accountants hunt for extensions to their functions to sustain and grow their businesses at a time of ever-increasing competition.

Regulatory changes have been taking place, designed to enable large accounting firms to occupy the place previously occupied by stockbrokers and merchant bankers.

Before 1994, institute guidelines prohibited member firms from underwriting or sponsoring an issue of shares or securities of a company on which it had reported or was to report. It was emphasised that involvement would endanger the firm's independence in its audit and/or reporting function.

This high moral tone was historically rather academic, as the rules of the Stock Exchange did not permit any firm of chartered ac-



Bruck: too much change

countants to act as a sponsor. So, when the Stock Exchange changed its rulebook to permit such sponsorship, the prohibitive rulebook of the institute was also relaxed to permit an auditor or reporting accountant for the first time to fulfil such responsibilities, so long as they did not extend to underwriting, pricing or promoting.

Most of the larger, and even

some of the smaller, accounting firms quickly jumped on to this bandwagon and registered with the Stock Exchange as sponsors, although few have so far taken advantage of their new freedom.

The Stock Exchange's new Alternative Investment Market may, however, act as a catalyst in developing this new area of activity for chartered accountants, thereby challenging the remaining fig leaf of restraint exercised by the institute.

The rules of the new Alternative Investment Market require every entrant to have a nominated adviser — and the guidance notes of the Stock Exchange make clear that this role may be fulfilled by a stockbroker, a banker, a lawyer or an accountant. A number of the major accounting firms seem to see this as a major marketing opportunity, providing the means of effectively taking on the mantle of sponsor.

Taken literally, the role of nominated adviser is purely regulatory, but the Stock Exchange guidance notes recognise that, in practice, the advisers will be in the position of advising on the most appropriate methods of promoting the compa-

ny's shares to the investment community and to provide assistance in pricing shares issued. Yet the nominated advisers are permitted by the Stock Exchange also to be the auditors and, in spite of a Stock Exchange prohibition against the nominated adviser also acting as reporting accountants ("normally" not allowed), it has been suggested that the largest firms may overcome this with the old argument of Chinese walls.

Seen in an historical perspective, this participation by the Stock Exchange and the Institute of Chartered Accountants towards the devaluation of audit independence caused by multiplicity of functions (some of which can involve contingency fees) may be regarded as somewhat perverse.

Is it not now time to call a halt and to insist categorically that an auditor cannot also be sponsor, nominated adviser, promoter or underwriter? Is the regulatory role of auditors and reporting accountants not enough for one firm and should it not be truly and visibly independent?

The author is national director of Corporate Finance, Pannell Kerr Forster.

Do the Big Six use their loaf?

THE real question in the controversy over predatory pricing and audit tendering is how far the great audit firms are like supermarkets offering bread and milk as loss leaders in the hope that you will buy other goods with big mark-ups.

The audit of the Royal Automobile Club has been done since 1979 by BDO Stoy Hayward. The RAC, as enlightened businesses do, put the audit out to tender. Price Waterhouse, Arthur Andersen, Ernst & Young and Stoy were asked to tender. In 1994, Stoy had charged £304,200. "With the benefits of efficiency through further computerisation, and recognising that we were facing a competitive tender," Stoy proposed £250,000. The other three firms proposed under £200,000, and PW, with a quoted total fee of £160,000, got the job.

Stoy has now taken the unprecedented step of sending all RAC members the figures, arguing: "It is our strongly held view that the independence and objectivity of any auditor will be at risk in circumstances where an audit had been secured on the basis of a predatory price."

There is also a secondary issue which Stoy has drawn to members' attention: tax advice. It is not covered by the audit tender. Last



ROBERT BRUCE

year, Stoy did tax consultancy work for the RAC which brought in fees of £190,000. PW also did tax consultancy work for the club for what Stoy's letter says were fees "in excess of £100,000". The letter also notes that PW's consultancy division has done work for the RAC in recent years and "there is a possibility of conflicts of interests arising between the role of auditors and management consultants in future years".

And that, on the surface, is the issue. PW faces a vote at the annual general meeting on May

17 and is likely to be confirmed as the new auditors.

The members have a guarantee that the audit fees will stick at £160,000, with increases in line with the RPI. But they have no idea what fees PW will charge for tax or consultancy work.

In Stoy's view, the way PW has priced the audit is the equivalent of the supermarket loaf. The RAC has said that "our selection of auditors was based on a range of criteria, of which the most significant related to quality and value, rather than to price". PW "wholly rejects the allegations and innuendo" in Stoy's letter.

But it is important because here is a medium-sized firm fighting for an existing audit against three of the Big Six firms. It is impossible for an outsider to see whether the disparity is because the largest firms are leaner and more efficient and so can do the work for a substantially lower price. Or whether it is simply that a medium-sized firm such as Stoy's is less efficient.

The real question raised by the RAC skirmish is the Big Six monopoly and how far clients can gain fair treatment. And whether firms such as Stoy, retaining audits such as the RAC would, therefore be good for the clients and good for the profession.

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■ FILM 1

A flawed epic partly redeemed by fine acting. *Legends of the Fall* follows family fortunes on a Montana ranch



■ FILM 2

Atom Egoyan's latest offering, *Exotica*, peeps into the fantasy world of a lurid nightclub

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

Love blossoms on Southgate station before the action turns nasty in the gritty prison drama, *Captives*



■ RADIO

A programme on the Lindbergh kidnapping in 1932 shows that media frenzy is nothing new

All the news that fits the prejudice

RADIO: As the admirably pertinent *Mediumwave* showed, American justice has long been a media circus

In America the latest way to raise a chuckle is to say that there are only two things you need to know about the O.J. Simpson trial: that he did it, and that he will get off. Pedantic types such as me prefer to know whether he did it and whether he will get off, but our hopes of a convincing answer are not high.

There was a timely reminder, as to why this matters, in *Mediumwave* (Radio 4, 5 days, repeated Tuesdays), a weekly media programme that consistently manages to avoid the incestuous in favour of what matters to people outside the media business, namely those millions who buy newspapers, listen to radio and watch television.

A great deal of programming, over here as well as over there, has focused on the American media that has surrounded Simpson. But most of the comment on this bizarre circus tends to treat the issue as a recent phenomenon, such like the treatment of cabloid "intrusion" gives the impression that it was invented circa 1980.

Mediumwave did us the service of revisiting one of the most celebrated criminal cases this century, the kidnapping and murder of the 20-month-old son of Charles Lindbergh in 1932.

Like Simpson, Lindbergh was a national hero, the first man to make a solo flight across the Atlantic. In the *Spirit of St Louis* Bruno Hauptmann subsequently went to the electric chair for the murder, protesting his innocence and convicted on circumstantial evidence.

It was the point. The kidnapping and murder of Charles Jr.

produced a frenzy of media excitement followed by an orgy of vengeful reporting when Hauptmann was arrested. Hauptmann never stood a chance, whether he did it or not.

There is increasingly a sense that the verdict on Simpson will have nothing to do with whether he killed his estranged wife, but everything to do with his status as a black hero and the media reaction to that fact, a reaction ruthlessly exploited by both defence and prosecution.

The American media have fallen for every publicity stunt cooked up by the lawyers in the Simpson case — as they did in the Hauptmann case. Only this week, one American television network interrupted a press conference by President Clinton in order to cover the latest twist in the saga of the penitent Simpson jury.

Sixty years ago, Hauptmann represented the reverse of the same coin: as Simpson is an all-American hero, so Hauptmann, a German immigrant, was an alien villain. He was cannon-fodder for a press bent on avenging the death of the son of a white national hero.

Thus, as *Mediumwave* demonstrated, 60 years of "progress" have done nothing to mitigate the perception that celebrity legal cases are a matter of who you are and, crucially, which side the media chooses to take.

Happily the British legal system dictates a different approach, even if some of the coverage relating to Frederick West suggests that smugness would be premature.

PETER BARNARD

JAZZ: A big noise from Switzerland

No room for neutrals

THE Swiss-born pianist and composer George Gruntz has run his Concert Jazz Orchestra for nearly two decades, attracting a host of stellar players to his various line-ups — Phil Woods, Joe Henderson, Dexter Gordon and Woody Shaw among them.

He has also succeeded in creating a body of work almost unrivalled in jazz for its range and diversity. As well as providing music for the stage and ballet, Gruntz has

George Gruntz
Ronnie Scott's

also produced a jazz opera, an oratorio (*The Holy Grail of Jazz and Joy*), and a 1974 Arts Council commission, *The Rape of Lucretia*.

Another commission, for the Chicago Jazz Festival, provided a highlight of his orchestra's impeccably drilled but good-humoured and rumbustious performance marking the start of a week-long engagement at Ronnie Scott's. A rich, heady amalgam of blues, jazz and gospel, *Brooklyn Blues* provided trombonist Earl McIntyre — like the majority of Gruntz's band a veteran of a great many big bands ranging from those of Charlie Bley through Thad Jones/Mel Lewis to George Russell — with the perfect

setting for a virtuosic display employing phunger-ute.

In addition to siring Gruntz compositions, the orchestra also has a policy of restricting its repertoire to works written by band members, and two such — trumpeter Jack Walrab's pacy, cogent *Meat* and saxophonist Seamus Blake's rousing *Vanguard Blues* — provided their respective composers with excellent opportunities for showing off their soloing skills. Walrab's

provided a typically crackling, fiery improvisation. Blake, after a rattling, percussive piano solo from Gruntz, and a stridently direct, alto solo from Sal Giorgianni, applied his high-pitched, vulnerable tenor sound to his piece's bluesy changes.

Rounded out by a couple of other Gruntz pieces, an adaptation of Buddy Miles's *Dem Changes*, and *Mr Trombone Man*, a feature for bass trombonist Dave Taylor, this was a near-flawless — but relaxed and spontaneous — performance from one of the most consistently challenging big bands in the business.

CHRIS PARKER



A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do: Anthony Hopkins put his talents to sedentary use in *Legends of the Fall*, but at least Brad Pitt gets to kiss the girl (Julia Ormond)



Gone with the windbags

CINEMA: Anthony Hopkins, Brad Pitt and a cast of a thousand clichés make *Legends of the Fall* less a film, more a motionless experience for Geoff Brown. Plus the rest of the week's releases

Best take a cushion with you to *Legends of the Fall*. This is an epic family tragedy, long and pretentious, where we follow characters from the cradle to the grave and the camera is awestruck by every mountain and blade of grass around the Montana homestead of Anthony Hopkins. Yes, Sir Anthony Hopkins. Serial killer one minute, C.S. Lewis the next, the Oscar-gilded chameleon actor is now an American cavalry officer, Colonel Ludlow by name, in the century's early years.

A novella by Jim Harrison provides the melodramatic story. Stricken early with political correctness, Ludlow has abandoned his career in protest at the government's treatment of Indians. His wife, quickly bored by rugged nature, has also deserted. Their three sons grow up with different characters — wild, idealistic, dutiful — but a strong inner bond. The sons leave for the First World War. Two return, then leave for fresh pastures, then return, then leave. Half of Hopkins's life seems to be spent on the verandah, watching the traffic. Along the way, 20th-century turmoil impedes on the wilderness, and family ties are broken.

In older days it was natural for Hollywood studios to construct sagas like this, full of contract players, large swathes of scenery and what critics then called an "epic sweep". Now it is not. Edward Zwick, creator of *thirtysomething* and the director of *Glory*, marshals his resources well, but cannot make the bogus appear real. The war scenes — shells and bodies exploding prettily — smell particularly fake. And the actors adopt so many disguises — the hair lengthening or turning white, the face now conformed by a stroke — that their characters get hidden by the trickery.

Then, just when hope is lost, the story starts to grip. Ludlow's two surviving sons stop coming and going, and square off against each

other: cold, conniving Aidan Quinn versus the untamed Brad Pitt, golden hair cascading over his shoulders. Between them stands Julia Ormond, the third brother's widow, source of romantic conflict.

Alas, the good news does not last; for the finale, Zwick and the writers return to their bag of clichés. But in good times and bad the actors take their roles seriously. Hopkins never appears at home in the Montana hills, but his moral fervour convinces. Pitt glows with charisma as Tristan, the wild boy, imbued with Indian wisdom, while Quinn works hardest of all as Alfred, the son with the boring name, who starts off decent but ends up rotten.

The production, too, is handsome: John Toll's photography is fit for an art gallery wall. But effort can take a film only so far, and except for the odd half-hour, *Legends of the Fall* remains a puffed-up affair, a dime novel trying to be *King Lear*.

Atom Egoyan's plush and inventive *Exotica* plunges us into a far different world. In a nightclub plastered with jungle foliage, gentlemen sit lost in their fantasies while scanty ladies dance on tables. Other locations include a pet shop and an opera house: assorted characters drift in and out of the action, united only in their burning desires and burden of personal loss.

To spell out the plot more clearly would suggest a film with a strong narrative thrust, and for Egoyan, the esoteric Canadian director of *The Adjuster* and *Speaking Parts*, plot matters less than theme. Voyeurism remains his hobby-horse, but he rides it here with increased technical skill, and gives his characters extra definition.

Legends of the Fall

Odeon Leicester Square
15, 132 mins
Handsome but bogus
Hollywood epic

Exotica

Lumiere, 18, 104 mins
Voyeurist fun and games
with Atom Egoyan

Captives

MGM Haymarket, 15, 94 mins
Modest, off-beat
prison romance

Eyes Without a Face

ICA Cinema, 18, 88 mins
Poetic horror from
surrealist Georges Franju

In past films, Egoyan's creations lived in a media labyrinth. They communicated, or failed to, through video technology and the indirect gaze. Some of the present faces have appeared before: Arsinee Khanjian, Egoyan's wife, as the pregnant boss of the Exotica nightclub; Elias Koteas (from *The Adjuster*) as the club DJ, trapped in a complex relationship with a dancer (Mia Kirshner).

But there are no video screens to shield them from each other: indeed, the plot hinges on a moment of physical contact between the dancer and a customer, a breach of house rules.

This fact alone makes *Exotica* warmer and friendlier than the usual Egoyan conundrum. It also looks jollier. Working with double his usual budget, Egoyan uses the jungle vegetation, Asian-inspired music,

and an inventive layer of sound effects to create a thick, sensuous atmosphere that lingers long after the film ends.

Away from the club, quirky humour flourishes at the pet shop where an Exotica regular (Bruce Greenwood) audits the books for an owner with a sideline in smuggling foreign animals.

Like most of its predecessors, *Exotica* still feels like a film heading smartly into a cul-de-sac: the director's obsessions never quite become ours. But the journey is sexy, funny, audacious, mesmerising: better by far than your average Hollywood excursion, or the daily haul on the Northern Line.

We stay with London Underground for *Captives*, where the leading characters — a prisoner on day release and the woman dentist who tends his teeth — snatch some intimate moments at Southgate station. Fancy night-time lighting gives the location a sleek, neon glow. But the eye is not deceived. It is still Southgate station: just as the film, for all its attempt at big screen panache, remains a BBC television play writ large.

At first, Frank Deasy's tale repays attention. The prison gloom is the genuine article: Wandsworth supplied locations. The direction, by Angela Pope, a television stalwart, is plain but observant. Tim Roth, taking a break from playing American gangsters, finds a delicate balance between violence and sensitivity as the solitary prisoner who seemingly murdered his girlfriend.

Julia Ormond, back from *Legends of the Fall*, puts her English reserve to good use as the professional woman who finds unprofessional

feelings creeping up between the cavities.

The film's difficulties begin once it moves on from conjuring romance out of gritty surroundings, and pumps up the drama with action. The prison drug-dealers get heavy. Ormond is given a gun to smuggle in, and *Captives* turns shrill and implausible. Once that happens, neither cast nor director can help.

Those who squirm when Ormond cuts into the kidnapped student's face (due for transplant to his disfigured daughter), you still feel the torture. Franju's camera never flinches: as a surrealist trained in documentary, he knew the bizarre and the disturbing could best be conjured without outright fantasy.

But he also appreciated the poetry of dreams and fairy tales. Hence the eerie, wall-like figure of Edith Scob, who alone can calm the howling dogs caged in her father's basement. Hence the slow, hypnotic pace as Brasseur's right-hand woman, Alida Valli, lures Paris students into her Citroën and motors out to the isolated mansion, where the grisly spectacle unfolds among grand staircases and candlelit dinners.

Beautiful, horrible and a little boring all at once, *Eyes Without a Face* remains a fascinating film, well worth catching in this new print.

Greater horrors lie in wait in the supporting short, one of Jean Painlevé's amazing films that cross-breed science with surrealism. *Vampire*, made in 1939, salutes the vampire but and watches a specimen in microscopic detail feasting on a guinea pig, to the music of Duke Ellington. I had to close my eyes.

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THEATRE 1
Corin Redgrave is Roger Casement, Irish patriot or British traitor, in a new stage play at the Riverside



THEATRE 2
In a blaze of colour, the RSC's spirited *A Midsummer Night's Dream* comes to London

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3
Does Professor Higgins live in an art gallery? The Birmingham Rep's *Pygmalion* suggests as much



THEATRE 4
The Irish are coming: Dublin director Joe Dowling on the imminent invasion from the west

A new stage portrait of a controversial historical figure; Shaw revived; sparkling Shakespeare; and an Irish invasion

Treacherous ground for newcomers

Not all my memories of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of David Rudkin's *Cries from Casement As His Bones Are Brought To Dublin* are positive. I seem to recall a curious episode in which actors in oilskins rushed about hurrying flour at each other, looking incongruously like lifeboatmen in a bakery as they described the grim symbiosis of England and Ireland. Yet the play was an authentically imaginative and complex affair, which brought to life the contradictions of Roger Casement the man while seeking links between his homosexuality and his fellow-feeling for the rejected and oppressed.

Certainly, a revival of Rudkin's piece would seem a far more stimulating proposition than the decent but solid slice of history that Alex Ferguson has contributed to the Redgrave season at Riverside Studios. Chronologically, intellectually and in every other way, the scope of *Casement* is slimmer. Sir Roger's exposure of Belgian colonial atrocities is remembered only in a cursory flashback, and his other worthy deeds abroad are ignored. Little of interest is made of his homosexuality. Instead, he is seen disgustedly denouncing the British knight-hood he has accepted a moment before, and then it's straight off to the Germany of 1915 in hopes of finding the guns and soldiers he needs for an Irish uprising.

Most people on either side of the Irish Sea would now concur with Ferguson in seeing Sir Roger as an Irish patriot rather than a British traitor. It is neither a particularly contentious view nor one that the play presses especially unfairly. That *Casement's*

Casement Riverside

back-door dealings with a mortal enemy caused genuine outrage, even among the Irish prisoners-of-war that he was trying to recruit, is acknowledged and understood. The sadistic British military policeman who torments him in the Tower of London is at least given the excuse of having lost a brother at Ypres.

On the other hand, the British authorities in their turn are shown as being rather keener on killing Sir Roger than they actually were. Whether or not Asquith put a hit on him in Norway, as Ferguson alleges, his government initially used the evidence of *Casement's* taste for rough trade to try to get him to plead guilty but insane. An Irish martyr, the PM knew, would go down badly in America. Only after *Casement* was condemned to

death did people in high places seek to blacken his reputation by surreptitiously circulating the famous "black diaries". A pity Ferguson does not mention that this newspaper denounced this shoddy tactic in a fine leader.

Yet this is not an evening that leaves one caring very greatly about the *Casement* case or thinking very deeply about its ramifications. As Ferguson writes him, Sir Roger is high-toned but ineffective, and, as Corin Redgrave humanely plays him, he is vulnerable, forlorn and a bit puzzled by the big, bad Europe in which he finds himself. The play, well enough performed though it is by a 15-person cast, is neither a searing indictment nor an impassioned defence nor anything else very strong and particular. The world would be neither better nor worse if it had never been written.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Turbulent times: Jonathan Chesterman, Malcolm Tierney and Corin Redgrave in Alex Ferguson's new play, *Casement*, at the Riverside Studios

Useful lesson in modern manners

PROFESSOR Higgins appears to live in the Guggenheim Museum. His Wimpole Street drawing room may be furnished with an antique desk and leather armchair, but architecturally it is an open-plan minimalist affair: a white tower with banister-less stairs spiralling past pictures of lips, caught mid-babble, boldly framed in Matisse blue. The climb ends in a gramophone trumpet, like a huge cobalt columbine.

Eliza Doolittle, it seems, will have to abide in an art gallery curated by an awfully avant-garde phoneticist. Jackson Pollock has patently been in residence before her, splattering Mrs Pearce's spoolless floor with scarlet.

The modernism perhaps reflects the strongly budding feminism of the play and its witty challenges to the old high-low divides. Anthony Clark's production, starring Roy Marsden and Jayne Ashbourne, brings these issues out, rather than burying Shaw's drama under light entertainment and love-interest. But Patrick Connellan's design, more confused than Eliza about where it is coming from, is a sticking point. Ah

Pygmalion Birmingham Rep

well, if it isn't practical, it is surely symbolic.

Marsden, with a glint of vicar about his round spectacles, does not quite cut it as the devilish charmer. However often he thrusts his hands in his pockets, he never fully captures Higgins's boyish bounce. Still, he is a convincing confirmed bachelor with the makings of a bully.

Ashbourne, in her stage debut, has her ups and

downs. Hawking flowers under the arches, she seems more acoustically than accidentally challenged. Her Eliza lacks comic ferocity but has freshness, caricaturing neither the cockney nor the clipped lady, and combining vulnerability with dignity.

She comes into her own pulling the wool over the eyes of Mrs Higgins's acquaintances, all but effing and blinding without batting an eyelid, and with grace far surpassing the fashion-crazy socialite Miss Eynsford-Hill who is tossed out like a leopard-skin flower fairy.

KATE BASSETT

New box of tricks

A FEW years ago there was a fashion at Stratford for box sets. Sparsely furnished, the designs worked well, and Adrian Noble revived and develops this tradition for his *Dream*, now happily transferred to the RSC's London base.

One of his developments is to fill the set with colour: red or blue for the walls, where doors are placed as mysteriously as in a Magritte sky; bright streamers unfolding from on high for the nuptial party; costumes bold as the pigments in a child's paintbox.

Anthony Ward's design also seems to nod to the most famous white box of all, Peter Brook's 1970 *Dream*, where trapezes were used to exploit the stage's third dimension. Noble brings Puck and the First Fairy floating down on umbrellas between clustered lightbulbs that hang like golden dewdrops; Titania's lover is another umbrella, shocking-pink, an airy corset sturdy enough to carry Stella Gonet and the impressive weight of Desmond Barritt's Bottom. Free-standing doors rise from the ground for Oberon and Puck to perch on, watching the misadventures of the mortal lovers, who later, when sleeping, are suspended in sheets like the baby bundles traditionally flown in by storks.

Such imaginative use of the high game of the stage, while jolly, is at the same time thrillingly supernatural. It also creates a striking contrast with Bottom and his fellow mechanicals, led by Philip

A Midsummer Night's Dream Barbican

Voss's anxious, bowler-hatted Quince.

Spectacle brings pleasure but would not satisfy without subtle, spirited performances. Here we have a cast working together at the peak of their powers. The imperious Oberon of Alex Jennings is inhuman enough to laugh at a death in childbirth yet intrigued by the panorama of mortal emotions. The whites of his eyes flash danger: he can snarl or hiss contempt, then yearn with reawakened desire or, gesturing with a finger, provoke laughter without uttering a sound.

Barritt is someone else who can start us laughing simply by standing still and looking pained. But his Bottom has gravity and an openness of feeling that makes it clear why he is venerated by his fellows. Kevin Doyle and Toby Stephens become diverting rivals in love; Emma Fielding brings pained wonder to her "Am I not Hermia?"; and Emily Raymond is a nicely agitated but resourceful Helena.

All the fairies have sex on the brain — Barry Lynch is a notably louche Puck — but as Freud was not the first to point out, this is what happens in dreams, and not only in midsummer.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Ireland stages another rising

Matt Wolf meets Joe Dowling, who brings O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* to London from next week

Amid all the Irish visitors to the London theatre these days, few can be more welcome than Joe Dowling, former artistic director of the Abbey (he left in 1989) who has done as much as anyone of his generation to propel Irish theatre to the international forefront. Dowling's directing credits in London have been infrequent but important: Hugh Leonard's *A Life at the Old Vic* in 1980; Brian Friel's *Paddy Hatfield* in 1992 at the Royal Court; Sean O'Casey's *Junio and the Paycock* in the West End a year later.

Now Dowling, aged 46, is back in the West End with another O'Casey revival — the ferocious *Easter Rising* play *The Plough and the Stars*, written in 1926, 70 years after the bloody event that is its subject. And while the 1993 *Junio* brought belatedly to London a Gate Theatre of Dublin production that originated seven years earlier, this *Plough and the Stars* was produced specifically for the current Irish season.

The plays, says Dowling, argue, is now the most IRA ceasefire has only simplified

the "contemporary echoes" of a drama about a country beset by violence. Dowling regards *Plough* as the playwright's "response to the idea of armed revolution, of violence as a political weapon. O'Casey rejects the notion of an Ireland freed by this event; he tells the story of a country being born in a way that is neither favourable nor propagandistic. This is an extraordinary, endearing masterpiece, and it's rare one can say that about a play."

Dowling directed *Plough* in Dublin in 1989 in a Gaiety Theatre production, two of whose leading actresses — Catherine Byrne as the bricklayer's wife, Nora Clitheroe, and Anita Reeves as the charwoman Mrs Gogan — have returned for this production.

But Dowling regards the new staging, which includes popular Irish entertainer Eamon Morrissey as the hard-drinking carpenter Plummer, as "much" more politically focused. Since the ceasefire and talks, people are more conscious than ever that the problem in Ireland is a complex one: it's not simply a matter of the bad British and



Dowling: points to a new confidence in Irish theatre

good Irish, but of characters wanting to be free but not knowing how to go about it."

Dowling admits to being "astonished" at London's current receptivity to Irish work compared with "25 years ago when Brian Friel was writing *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* and London was almost completely unsympathetic." Why the change? Financial woes at the Abbey notwithstanding, the director points to a buoyancy and confidence in his nation's theatrical life that cannot be ignored.

"In my generation, we grew up really not believing we could ever do anything as well as they do it over here; even to go to London was a huge event in one's life. Now there's a new generation for whom Europe is their oyster, growing up for the first time not in the shadow of England."

Dowling, for his part, has been turning his attention increasingly towards North America, where his career was

made in 1988 by the ecstatic reception to the sell-out limited run on Broadway of his *Gate Theatre Juno*.

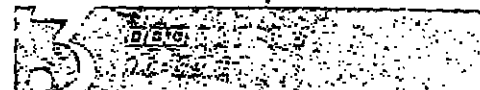
In November, he begins a three-year contract as artistic director of Minneapolis's prestigious Guthrie Theatre, named for fellow Irishman Tyrone Guthrie. There, he will inherit a subscriber base of 25,000; an annual budget of \$13 million (\$8 million); and one of the closest equivalents to an English-style resident company performing rotating repertory as exists in the American theatre.

So much for the "vagrant lifestyle" of a freelance director for which Dowling has limited patience: "I've always said it was an ambition to run a theatre again, and there's a historical continuity to the Guthrie which is something we'll want to try to maintain."

● *The Plough and the Stars* opens on Wednesday at the Gaiety Theatre (0171-494 5085), until June 10

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Comrades on the picket line, slaves to the party line

Sarah Baxter

ENEMY WITHIN
The rise and fall of the
British Communist Party
By Francis Beckett
John Murray, £19.99

I know that authors are not responsible for their jacket blurbs and I would not like to be too hard on Francis Beckett, who has written an excellent book. But the publishers should not be allowed to get away with their description of *Enemy Within*. "This is the true story of Britain's Communists, their hopes and the people who betrayed them," it says above a moving picture of the Communist leader Harry Pollitt addressing members of the International Brigades in Spain.

Ah, betrayal! The great lament of revolutionaries and romantics. If there is a lesson to be learnt from the book, it is that Britain's Communists betrayed themselves. Beckett, a sympathetic narrator, stops just short of this conclusion: but as an honest historian, he has not sought to hide the facts.

Almost every party member was infected by the virus of Stalinism and, if not, they left. Some carried it with them to small Trotskyist sects, which replicated the worst failings of the Communists. Others joined the Labour Party, the peace movement or quit politics altogether. For those that remained, there was no protection or quarantine.



Mick McGahey: organiser

For decades, they truly believed they had good reasons to fool themselves. As Eric Hobsbawm, the Marxist historian who found much to oppose in the "actually existing socialism" of the Soviet bloc, once explained: "The dream we had was a great dream, whether you call it a socialist dream... or the dream of general liberation, the liberation of mankind, the liberation of the poor."

It is still a great dream, but, for British Communists, it came to depend fatally on the Bolshevik example of 1917. As the years went by and the outrages multiplied, few Communists owned up to this embarrassing fact. But the first task of the British Communist Party was to defend the red Soviet Union against the white forces of imperialism; and it crumbled when there was nothing left to defend, having already rotted from within.

One of the great strengths of the author is that he is unsentimental about the early days of the party. Almost as soon as it was founded in 1920, the coffers began to fill with Moscow gold. Cash was smuggled in by land and sea by heroic figures, who were often jailed in Britain for their efforts. The result of their brave endeavours was that the party grew rich, inflexible and bureaucratic before it had many members. Stalin's accession only made matters worse.

Spied on from the start, British Communists became addicted to behaving conspiratorially. Their own small numbers helped them to become slavishly pro-Soviet. They felt ashamed that in an advanced capitalist country — one that was

How Stalin infiltrated America

James Sherr

THE SECRET WORLD OF AMERICAN COMMUNISM
By Harvey Klehr, John Earl Haynes and Fridrikh I. Igorevich Firsov
Yale University Press, £16.95

Whether or not communism is dead, the history of the Communist movement is coming back to life, thanks to the opening of the Comintern (Communist International) archives in 1992. Even if Russia's increasingly moody and unpredictable authorities should decide to close them tomorrow, enough has emerged to do irreparable damage to the cosy orthodoxies that have dominated Western academic writing on the subject for the past 25 years.

The authors (two established American scholars and a Russian employee of the archive) believe that they are the first non-Communist researchers to examine the Comintern's separate collection on the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA). Out of some 4,300 files in that collection — and perhaps half a million pages — they pored over a thousand of the most promising. From these, 92 documents are presented *verbatim*: documents that not only name names, but reveal the CPUSA's reliance on Soviet funding, its total subordination to Soviet leadership and its intimate collusion with Soviet foreign intelligence. Further volumes are promised.

To be sure, from the time of the first serious purge within the American Communist movement in 1929 to the dissolution of the Comintern in 1943, copious evidence on all of these points was furnished by ex-Communist defectors and malcontents, not to speak of the FBI. Yet, because these sources were reviled as much by the non-Communist as the Communist Left — and because they plainly had axes to grind — "revisionists" have not had to move heaven and earth to convince the more cautious or romantic that damning judgments about the CPUSA were based on innuendo rather than fact. In this they had the help of an unwitting, if far from silent, partner: Senator Joseph McCarthy, whose main accomplishment (it can be said with hindsight) was to make anti-communism not only repugnant, but taboo.

The archives confirm three tenets of anti-communist wisdom. First, the CPUSA acquired an influence wholly disproportionate to its size (it had 100,000 members at its peak) when it adopted liberal flags of convenience — which, without exception, it did fraudulently. One of the book's more striking revelations is that General Donovan, chief of the OSS (the CIA's precursor) initiated wartime collaboration with Communist networks. His rationale — "I would put Stalin on the OSS payroll if I thought it



The tycoon Armand Hammer knew all the Soviet leaders from Lenin to Gorbachev and gave covert support to the CPUSA, which his father, Julius, co-founded

would help us defeat Hitler" — sounded like logic itself. Only in 1945 did he discover that his allies had long moved on to the next round, using the OSS network to help to put Communists into power in Europe.

Second, like all Communist parties outside the Soviet Union, the CPUSA was both a public and an underground organisation. "Because so many of the party's activities required secrecy and subterfuge, not only to launder Soviet money but also to avoid government prosecution, the CPUSA very early developed the habits and customs of conspiracy."

Third, "this conspiratorial organisation later assisted Soviet intelligence." In so far as seasoned party professionals were concerned, this assistance was not only

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Always scribble, scribble, scribble

John Russell Taylor

MRS OLIPHANT
A Fiction to Herself
A Literary Life
By Elisabeth Jay
Clarendon, Oxford, £25

At the end of the 20th century, prolificity does not stand a writer in good stead. Obviously a writer whose major works run to 127 titles over 40 years could not be any good, could she?

The Victorians, of course, did not see things in that light. The Protestant work ethic still counted for something and according to that, the sheer outpouring of Margaret Oliphant's writing could not be morally wrong, and therefore was not likely to be wholly wrong in any other way either.

Though she was given to moments of modesty about her work, she does not seem to have suffered from much self-doubt about her basic abilities, and was essentially realistic. It was not humanly possible that everything anybody wrote could be of first quality, but given the extent and variety of her experience, surely some of her work must be.

In this assumption she was entirely correct. After some 90 years of neglect, she has had a revival of interest in the last 10 years. About a dozen volumes have come back to print, including the five *Chronicles of Carlingford*, her equivalent of Tolstoy's *Berserkshire* novels, and no fewer than three editions of her autobiography in various forms.

Her life, as sympathetically but unsentimentally recounted by Elisabeth Jay, is a perfect Victorian horror story, of the grimly grinding sort: an endless chronicle of early death (her husband and all her six children pre-deceased her) and enforced work to support her relatives, male and female, including a layabout husband, two sons of her own who went to the bad, and a gaggle of orphaned nephews and nieces. But unmistakably she wrote as much from internal as from external necessity.

Amazingly, perhaps, for all her speed of execution, none of her books is badly written, though most of them are a little untidy round the edges. They are compulsively readable. She famously inveighed against the sensation novel when her great rival, M.E. Braddon, dared to publish bestselling examples, but her own *The House on the Moor* is an admirable sensation novel, full of deception and dementia, with secret clauses and business chicanery.

Even her most "serious" novels are consistently funny, shot through with an amiable irony. And it would be difficult to find another novel in which the characters more convincingly change and mature than *Miss Marjoribanks*. Nearly a century after her death, Mrs Oliphant ever more clearly requires to be placed where Jay puts her, among the great Victorians, rather than in a separate compartment reserved for Victorian oddities.

Had you never had it so good?

Woodrow Wyatt

IN THE FIFTIES
By Peter Vansittart
John Murray, £19.99

IT MUST be my fault that I had never heard of Peter Vansittart though he has written numerous novels and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He is a jolly writer. "I had published three novels. The first, about an imaginary dictator, was greeted rather tepidly in *John O'London's Weekly* — 'This must be the worst book ever published.' Someone who can laugh at himself is a find.

Anecdotes of the well known, some a trifle shop-soiled, trip off gaily through the pages from start to finish. He went to tea with the desperately hard up Lord Alfred Douglas, the cause of Oscar Wilde's downfall. "I had been warned to leave five shillings on departure... I could not envisage the procedure; I could not very cheerfully imagine slipping it into that gaunt hand. I had read... that you left a part's hard cash on the mantelpiece... I left two half-crowns on my chair, where perhaps they slipped down beside the deep, shabby cushion."

In 1951 he met a fat man who talked volubly. "When at last he paused for breath, I leaned forward. 'You know so much about so many things... I wonder if you have ever thought of writing any of it down?' 'My name is Priestley.' Once he harangued a lady with unfavourable com-



A visit to the Tate (1952): Grace Robertson's *Picture Post* studies captured the cultural complexity of the 1950s

less members pushed him down the steps. I am not sure that, as Vansittart says, it was Lord Moran who wrote of the royal physician: "Lord Dawson of Penn? Killed so many men? That's why we sing/God save the King." The author had a shattering encounter with Lord Dawson who "had de-

manded tennis, and I was ordered to mark out a court... Nervously, I confused the measurements and, by using yards instead of feet, produced a court, gleaming indeed, but appearing only slightly smaller than the average county cricket ground."



THE DUCHESS

'Brilliant and terrifying' *Maureen Freely, THE OBSERVER*
'Fierce, scintillatingly funny... A wonderfully entertaining book' *Lacy Hughes-Hallett, THE INDEPENDENT*
'Absorbing... written with a mixture of hatred, venom, mischief, sparkle and spite' *Brain Masters, MAIL ON SUNDAY*
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Caught up in a verbal jungle

Harriet Paterson

BORNEO FIRE
By William Riviere
Sceptre, £15.99

THIS IS a novel about death, haunted by those who have died in the past, overshadowed by the fear of death to come. The backdrop is a threatened country and a dying populace, "the silent vanished races" of Borneo's tribes. The local authorities are denying the existence of a raging fire on the east coast of the island, so the old Borneo hand Philip Blakeney encourages his son Hugh, an environmental activist, to investigate.

Although Hugh's journey is pending throughout, it is held back until the final act of the book. Riviere concentrates instead on reflection and memory, around which the narrative hangs in a loose structure. Hamlet-like, he probes the dangers of knowing and of acting, particularly through the central character of Philip, who is tormented by the "diabolical knowledge" of atrocities suffered by his family during the war.

Following Philip's thoughts, the book flickers between a real and violent past and a more shadowy present. Large stretches consist of interrupted recollection, in a style characterised by disjointed images, unanswered questions and leaps of association: the persistent reader just has to keep going and hope that it will eventually form a pattern.

Better writing is inspired by the natural beauty of the island. Riviere has done his homework, and chants, litanyes of innumerable animals and plants to create an exotic archive of the "clouded-leopard and honey-bee" before they are all obliterated. He greets the destruction caused by rapacious logging firms with apocalyptic visions: "the sawmills smoking, the dust lands blowing, the rivers bringing down dead fish."

THE IDEA of the fire, which should form part of this vision, never quite comes off. Riviere exploits his power of suggestion from the beginning, a reasonable conceptual tool handled without subtlety, resulting in exhaustive symbolism-by-numbers. For Philip it is "the abstract fire", representing his painful memories. For the heroine Cassandra, torn by religious doubts, the fire is both passion and peril. For Hugh it is the burning cause he seeks, his big chance to be a hero.

The distant presence of the fire creates the menace of a final destruction scene, and this in turn is prefigured by so many "unrelated" warnings throughout the narrative that the denouement is robbed of any surprises. The men are portrayed as intelligent and complex, but the heroine is pure male fantasy: a combination of missionary-school virgin and "nubile beauty", just ripe for sensual release. Riviere's vocabulary for women recalls a *Flashman*-goes-East romp: "wench" and "minx", even "handmaiden". A novel for men only.

Ben Macintyre on two of the greatest names in American popular music



Irving Berlin accompanies the Beverly Sisters in 1954: he could neither read nor write music, and only played the piano in the key of F sharp

There's no misery like showbusiness

IRVING BERLIN
A Daughter's Memoir
By Mary Ellen Barrett
Simon & Schuster, £17.99

LORENZ HART
A Poet on Broadway
By Frederick Nolan
OUP, £25

THE principal inventor of the 20th-century American popular song was Irving Berlin. With it, he created an important part of America. Songs like *White Christmas*, *There's No Business Like Showbusiness*, *Cheek to Cheek*, *God Bless America* and *Easter Parade* have attained such an enduring level of popularity that they are truly reflections of America's national self-image, sung less for the purposes of entertainment than as expressions of patriotism. Many of Berlin's lyrics have become clichés, which may be the most profound immortality of all.

Berlin was fated during his lifetime. He made a fortune from his music, beginning in 1911 with *Alexander's Ragtime Band* (a resounding hit) and effectively ending with his musical *Mr President* (a resounding failure) in 1962. He died in 1989 aged 101.

It would be easy to dismiss Berlin, on the basis of his most memorable songs, as the musical equivalent of Norman Rockwell, a resolute optimist churning out simple sentiments for the American masses to sing along to — usually uplifting, sometimes banal. As his daughter relates in this memoir, when Berlin wrote "God Bless America", he "meant every word".

But Mary Ellen Barrett's greatest virtue is her depiction of someone altogether more complex and interesting than might be suggested by the man who most famously found himself "dreaming of a White Christmas". The Berlin described by Mary Ellen Barrett was no merry minstrel, but for much of his life suffered acute bouts of self-doubt and occasional compositional block, while periodically racked by insomnia and depression. His last years were

painful ones, as he watched his works gradually fall out of copyright and then out of style as rock music swept in. The portrait that emerges is of a supremely gifted, highly-strung and sometimes tortured man who lived too long for his own peace of mind.

Berlin, Barrett relates, "sweated blood" over his music while he composed both score and lyrics, he could neither read nor write music and could only play the piano in the key of F sharp, relying on others to commit his compositions to paper. The ragtime-to-riches story of Israel Baline (permanently altered to Irving Berlin thanks to a misprint on the first song sheet he sold in 1907) is an extraordinary American tale which Barrett, a journalist and novelist, tells with honesty and compassion without laying claim to objectivity.

Berlin was five when his family emigrated to the US from Siberia. His father was a cantor, who joined the other Jewish fugitives on Manhattan's Lower East Side and worked in the meat industry. Berlin began his musical career singing for cents in a Chinese restaurant.

The core of Barrett's story is the love between her parents, which started when Berlin was 36, already widely celebrated and a widower after losing his first wife to typhoid. It was an unlikely pairing — Berlin, the immigrant Jewish songwriter from the unfashionable Lower East Side, and Ellin Mackay, the chic Irish-American Catholic socialite from one of America's wealthiest families. Their affair prompted newspaper headlines, and enough embarrassing social waves to ensure that Ellin was cut off without a penny of her \$10 million inheritance.

They eloped in 1926 (Berlin composed *Always* as a wedding present to his bride), to begin a marriage that endured despite — or possibly because — it had seemed so improbable. The lost inheritance hardly mattered, for although Berlin lost his fortune in the

crash of 1929, he quickly remade it. A hard-nosed businessman, prodigious worker and doting family man, Berlin retained a gloomy, uncertain side to his character, whatever the "brilliance" of his songs. Driven by the ghosts of self-doubt, he shrank from the fanfare and struggled on with an often skittish muse. As Barrett puts it, her father was "a fighter, not noisy and bawling, but dogged". Success was about giving the folks what they wanted. As he once observed to Cole Porter, "Never hate a song that has sold half a million copies."

For Berlin the tragedy came in his final years, with the realisation that what he had produced was history, and no longer his. He became reclusive and resentful. "Living with himself, flickering out, was a form of hell," Barrett writes, although she understandably declines to explore in depth the final, grim part of her father's long life.

Lorenz Hart, one of the greatest lyricists America has ever produced, did not survive long enough to see his work grow old. Born to another immigrant New York Jewish family seven years after Ber-

lin, Hart died, pickled in alcohol, nearly half a century before him.

Hart could rhyme something to anything, and while his name may now be largely forgotten, his lyrics to such songs as *The Lady is a Tramp*, *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered*, and *My Funny Valentine*, have endured.

At the age of 24 Hart teamed up with the composer Richard Rodgers (who was then just 16) to create one of the most successful partnerships in Broadway history. As Rodgers later reflected, he had simultaneously "acquired a career, a best friend and a source of permanent irritation". With a superb ear for mimicry and language and a poet's understanding of structure and form, Hart's lyrics were irresistible in their wit, while sometimes almost overpowering in their melancholy.

If Berlin's unhappiness was largely invisible to all but his family, Hart's was starkly evident in his sexual ambiguity, his frenetic party-going and his excessive drinking.

The singer Mabel Mercer called him "the saddest man I ever knew". Drink and parties took their toll: after Rodgers finally broke the partnership and teamed up instead with Oscar Hammerstein II, Hart never recovered.

A meticulous biographer, Frederick Nolan tells Hart's story elegantly and with considerable panache, yet *A Poet on Broadway* is fatally marred by the bizarre refusal of the songwriter's estate to grant permission for Nolan to quote any of Hart's lyrics. It is no fault of the writer, but it is a strange and ultimately unsatisfying experience to read about the life of the man dubbed "The Poet Laureate of America" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, without being allowed to read the poet's words.

The Texan arts college where Ricky has been working is also conjured up comically. The students call him "present-challenged" because he thinks so often about the past: Zelda, his librarian girlfriend, sits with him in the Rothko Chapel before they make love, and they try "not to think too much of Rothko stirring his arms in the bath".

Finally — after a long, long time — we realise that we have been given a deeply considered self-portrait of a man: his anguished, yearning inner life, his unhappy battles with the world as he found it in the late 20th century, and the "guilt at the bottom of the glass", as he puts it. Every one of the book's 250,000 words has been carefully chosen.

Yet can it have been anything but a mistake for Thorpe to have selected as his subject such an insufferable talker? Can one believe that any but a few martyrs to literature will want to plough through his story?

The Devil in crystal

John Bayley

MOONLIGHT INTO MARZIPAN
By Sunetra Gupta
Phoenix House, £14.99/£8.99

OVER the battered earth / The new troops parade" wrote Yeats. He did not have the fresh crop of spring novels in mind, but his exclamation fits their coming fairly well. And yet, if last year's Booker prize is anything to go by, most of the new recruits seem old before their time, bowed down by knowingness, and already wizened by the experience of their predecessors.

Knowingness here is about the novel as a form, old and grey as it now is despite its always promising name; and about modernity itself. The novel must now be streetwise, embodying the contemporary, and consciousness of these matters on the novelist's part does not make for an impression of freshness, or of innocence. All the more agreeable, therefore, when these qualities appear: and with spontaneous grace, as if by nature.

Sunetra Gupta, still only 30, has already written two novels, besides being a highly respected medical doctor at Oxford. *Memories of Pain* and *The Glassblower's Breath* are brilliant achievements, jewelled with colour, and yet having an easy informality which presents a humorously robust and not at all precious personality. The sense of life and fun is not unlike that in Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*. The suitable girl in her prose is at home in English and in Indian feeling with a nonchalance just as sparkling and adroit: her social sense has the same unperturbed gaiety.

Yet there is nothing light-hearted in her themes, least of all in that of her third novel, *Moonlight into Marzipan* is about the ramshackle manner in which discoveries of dazzling and ominous significance may be made in science today; and the irony by which they are as likely, even more likely, to be gestated in a Lewisham semi or a disused Calcutta garage as in some sleek and well-funded research establishment. When the researcher Promothesh hits on a biological phenomenon whose significance he has the inspirational gift to understand, he feels it will carry him from Bengal to the heights of the international scientific world, and bring him not only recognition but riches as well.

Things of course do not work out like that. His arrival in England, under the auspices of Sir Percival Partridge and the gravel-voiced New England gentleman and scholar, Juan Gorrion, is an anticlimax, and his great discovery begins to lose its diffident inventor's confidence. As if anticipating darkness at noon, his protective wife Esha, on whom he relies, falls under a train. Worst of all, the devil himself, in the person of Yuri Sen, a Bengali colleague, is in attendance to distract and demoralise him.

Named Yuri after the Russian astronaut Gagarin, this equivocal fellow is a finely imaginative conception of the Lord of Lies, not unlike that seedy, apologetic and down-at-heel petit bourgeois devil who haunts Ivan Karamazov. But having set up such a disturbing and promising scenario the author finds it too much for her to develop, in plotted and suspenseful ways. Not unnaturally, perhaps, for to keep such an opening from declining into anti-climax would tax an old master of science fictional story-telling.

Gupta is not a professional, at least not in this department, and she cannot be blamed for falling back on her wonderful gifts of descriptive suggestion: images of English and Indian life and death, competition and confusion, academicism and avianism, all tumbling over each other with a sharp original aplomb. Oxford sits soberly in the snow; young girls in their fresh linen *puja* dresses



Sunetra Gupta: sparkling

laugh and chatter together, as unworriedly and unspoil as their mothers were, and yet as sophisticated as the streetwise 16-year-old of Anglo-America.

Looking forward to Gupta's next, I should like to see a simpler story, eschewing the obligatory apparatus here of post-Nabokov or Bulgakov romance: a biographer who tells the hero narrator's story while falling in love with him: a devil with nothing to do except fall humanly ill: a Promothesh / Promethus without the fictional time or space to have his own mind, or to pursue his studies sequentially. This novel, like its predecessors, has great charm; but I look forward now to something more solid and simple, and feel it may already be under way.

John Bayley's third novel, *The Queer Captain*, will be published by Duckworth this year.

And thus spake on that ancient film buff

Derwent May

STILL
By Adam Thorpe
Secker & Warburg, £15.99

cal portrait of an English village, shown in a series of short stories about people living there at different epochs since the 17th century. What he seems to be doing this time is to interlace the experiences of three recent generations of an English family in one relentless stream of consciousness. Ricky's "film" appears in the end to be a pure fantasy. He is dreaming of a movie he would like to have made; he is making his apologia to the world.

Eventually one gets used to the babble of his narrative, as one gets used to the noise of a nearby railway. Ricky's overwhelming obsession, we slowly perceive, is with his grandmother's generation. His father was a London barrow-boy, and he himself was brought up in the suburbs at Enfield. But his grandfather, Giles Trevelyan, came from a rich family, and his great-aunt Agatha was a Victorian lady with beautiful grey eyes.

Who, in that case, was his grandmother? That is about the only point of dramatic interest in the novel, and I will not give it away. (Hundreds of pages have to pass before we find out.)



Adam Thorpe: his narrator's voice is not as rambling as it seems

What Ricky's mind dwells on mostly is one episode in the lives of his grandfather's family — the cruel, ceremonial expulsion of his great-uncle William from his public school in 1913 for making nude drawings, and the repercussions back in the great house, especially on the beautiful Agatha. In the interstices of his ramblings, Ricky manages to create this scene vividly, even seductively. It is an elegiac picture, with Ricky never forgetting the horrors of the trenches that were lying in wait.

You slowly realise, too, that it is those grey eyes of his great-aunt that Ricky has found again in Zelda, a girl he has loved in America. And now the "ramblings" themselves begin to take shape: it is they which contain, with increasing coherence, the stories of the next two generations, his parents' and his own.

The parents do not get much of a look-in, but Ricky's boyhood in Enfield with them, especially the hours which he spent poring over the stills outside the local Ritz, is brilliantly sketched in scattered

sentences. And out of all his joky, self-pitying allusions to his life in Hollywood ("Dick the Prick", "Dicky Crown of Thornies", he calls himself), a vision of that world and its own manic concerns gradually shines through more and more clearly. Even some of the wisecracks prove to be not too bad, if not quite up to Woody Allen standard (we learn that the film director "Elijah Wannamaker" used to ask when he was over-budget: "Did He claim expenses or did He not?").

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MICHAEL BARRYMORE Back in Business



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BOOK two return business-class tickets to France before June 30 and qualify for two free economy-class tickets. The deal is open to members of Air France's Frequence Plus frequent flyer scheme (membership is free) and the tickets are valid for any French destination until the end of August. Details: 0181-742 6600.

LUFTHANSA passengers flying into Munich can now use the express coach service linking the airport with the city's main train station. Coaches leave every 20 minutes for most of the day and cover the 29-mile trip in 45 minutes. Fares are DM15 (£7) single or DM25 return. The usual taxi fare is DM90.

AVIS has replaced Europcar as the fly-drive partner for Air UK. Avis will provide a free tank of petrol to Air UK passengers renting a car at any UK airport before May 31. Inclusive rates for a small vehicle such as the Vauxhall Corsa start at £45 a day. Details: 0345 666777.

EXECUTIVES flying from Jersey or Belfast to London can book a £179 excursion fare

FARE DEALS

valid for three days. The ticket is fully refundable and changeable without penalty. Details: 0345 676676.

THIS summer, British Airways has introduced a "seat sale" fare to Prague of £167 for midweek and £199 for weekend flights. A Saturday night stay is required. Details: 0181-897 4000.

STAY away for at least two days and TAP Air Portugal will reduce the cost of its business-class fare by more than £100. The carrier's £399 fare is valid for round-trip flights to either Lisbon or Porto. Details: 0171-828 0262.

GB AIRWAYS is providing a free business-class ticket for an accompanying spouse on its Gatwick to Valencia service. The offer is valid between May 15 and June 30 with the return business-class fare (for two people) costing £504. Details: 0181-897 4000.

UNTIL the end of May, passengers booking the BA service to Damascus qualify for a £340 excursion, saving more than £200 on the normal price. Passengers must stay away between a week and a month.

THAI International flights to Bangkok cost £460 return (£726 normally) when booked through Travel Warehouse. For an extra £35 you can fly onwards to Chiangmai or Phuket. Details: 0171-414 8808.

EXECUTIVES who fly between the UK provinces and Dublin with Aer Lingus can buy a booklet of ten return tickets. At £159, it provides a 30 per cent saving. Details: 0181-899 4747.

DANISH airline Maersk, which flies from Gatwick to Billund and Copenhagen, will provide one free ticket for every ten full fare round-trips booked. Details: 0171-333 066.

ONE way to reach the Slovakian capital, Bratislava, is to take the Austrian Airlines bus from Vienna Airport. This departs at 12.15pm (the Heathrow-Vienna 7.35am flight connects) and reaches downtown Bratislava at 1.45pm. Details: 0171-434 7300.

Business Travel, pages 18-21

Tour operators slash their prices

Bargain-hunters are waiting until the last minute to book as three million summer holidays go unsold, reports Marianne Curphey

Tour operators and travel agents have stopped predicting that summer 1995 will beat last year's record of almost 14 million package holidays sold, and are admitting they will be happy simply to equal it.

As two of the United Kingdom's largest travel agents, Lunn Poly and Thomas Cook, announced this week they were cutting the prices of holidays available in the coming months, analysts in the leisure industry said there were still three million packages left to sell.

Over the next few weeks, tour operators will be trying to keep their nerve and sell holidays as close to the original brochure price as possible.

while customers will aim to delay their bookings until the last minute in order to snap up the greatest bargains.

The number of foreign package holidays sold through the UK's leading travel agent, Lunn Poly, was down 20 per cent in January, traditionally one of the most important booking months of the year, although sales rallied somewhat in March.

Lunn Poly is now offering 10 per cent off selected tour operators' brochures to ten holiday destinations,

and a 5 per cent discount on a number of other summer 1995 brochure holidays. Customers will, however, be required to purchase Lunn Poly's own insurance.

Offers include 14 nights half-board in Majorca for £519.30, a saving of almost £38; and a 14-night self-catering package for two adults and one child to Crete for £987, a saving of nearly £110.

Thomas Cook predicted that prices this summer would be lower than last, and said tour operators and

travel agents would be under severe pressure to cut prices dramatically to shift their unsold share of the market.

Thomas Cook, which is 90 per cent owned by the German company Westdeutsche Landesbank, is offering £30 per person off all holidays to Greece booked through First Choice Holidays, in which Westdeutsche Landesbank has a 22 per cent holding.

A spokesman for Thomas Cook said the market for summer 1995 was "flat" and consumers had been

"cautious and cynical" about special offers since brochures were launched last September.

One leisure industry analyst said publicly-quoted tour operators like Airtours and First Choice might be forced into cutting prices in order to sell enough holidays to meet the financial targets they had promised to shareholders, and said tour operators in general were "getting very twitchy" about the idea of a price war.

A spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) said predictions for this year had been scaled down to 13.5 million packages. "The feeling in the industry is that we may not enjoy as good a year as 1994," he said.

Guy Walters sifts through the best of the holiday bargains on offer in a new weekly report

Make your pound stretch further



The Amalfi coast, one of the sights on Crystal Premier's Neapolitan coach tour

WITH the weak lira, Italy has become an attractive destination for British holidaymakers. For example, an average three-course meal with wine in a trattoria will cost only £9.25, and a £22.50 Benetton jumper will cost only £18 in Milan.

Crystal Premier Italy (0181-390 5554) still has a few places left on its Neapolitan Coach Tour which takes in Capri, Pompeii, Vesuvius, and Amalfi. Lasting for seven nights and leaving on May 5, the tour costs from £577.

Italian Escapades (0181-748 2661) is offering a flexible programme in which travellers can design their own itinerary.

The company offers a free internal Alitalia flight provided it is between two destinations in the brochure, and if Alitalia has been the carrier from the UK. This means a saving, for example, of £113 between Lake Como and Cefalu in Sicily.

WEEKEND BREAKS

MANY hotels are offering reduced rates to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE-Day, although not at 1945 prices.

Dukes Hotel, St James's Place, London SW1 (0171-491 4840) is holding a Victory Celebration Month in May, with room rates starting at £144, plus VAT, for a double room. Included is complementary champagne every morning, and 1945 Cognac is also available.

Horsted Place Sporting Estate and Hotel, Uckfield, East Sussex (01323 755581), is slashing its rate of £65 per person per night to £45 for bookings from Friday to Sunday until September 1. The hotel is also offering a Victory Luncheon, inclusive of a half bottle of wine, at £19.45 per head, and a Victory Dinner with a glass of champagne and bottle of wine at £39.45.

Stapleford Park, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire

(01572 787522), was a hospital and convalescent home for soldiers during the war, but it is now a hotel and sporting estate. Until September 1 it is charging £45 per person per night from Friday to Sunday. Pride of Britain Hotels (01264 736604) are offering lunches for £15.75 at all their hotels on May 7 and 8, featuring war-

time dishes interpreted in today's style.

EXPEDITIONS

FOR those with a taste for adventure, the following trips are on offer:

Explore Worldwide's (01252 319448) Borneo Adventure, which departs on May 12,

includes a riverboat journey through the jungles of Sarawak and Sabah, a visit to the Mulu Caves and the chance to see the giant turtles on Selangor Island. The 16-day trip costs £1,295 inclusive of flights, some meals, travel and a tour leader.

Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611) are mounting three 22-

day tours around Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the first of which leaves on July 30. Expert guides take you on night safaris to see the leopards of Luangwa Valley, as well as a visit to Cape Muehlenberg for swimming and watersports. The tour begins at the Victoria Falls and costs £1,510 per person, including flights and escort.

Travelpack (0161-707 4405) has many safaris and tours around Africa, one of which is its seven-night trip from Cape Town to Johannesburg. The tour's highlights include a visit to the vineyards of the Cape wine industry, as well as the chance to witness some "ostrich rodeoing" at Oudshoorn, South Africa's "feather capital" of the world. Prices start from £900 per person between May 1 and September 30.

Kuoni Travel (01306 740888) is offering a six-night stay at the Frigate Bay Beach Hotel on St Kitts from £519 per person on a room-only basis, departing from May 3 to June 30.

Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) has a twin-destination flight-only deal to San José in Costa Rica and the colonial beach-resort of Cartagena in Colombia for £499 per person until July 13, and from September 1 to December 10. The minimum stay is seven days.

Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) has some summer specials with substantial savings. At the Franklin D. Roosevelt in Jamaica, prices have been reduced by £518 to £1,780 per person for 14 nights, including all meals, watersports, tennis, evening entertainment, children's activities and return BA flights. The company is also offering a cut of £414 to £1,609 for a similar package at La Source in Grenada, and a reduction to £1,509 for similar at the Almond Beach Club in Barbados.

Concorde tapped for change

Foreign currency scheme expands

BRITISH Airways is to extend its in-flight charity scheme to include Concorde, after passenger donations topped £1 million this month.

The scheme, Change for Good, collects unwanted foreign coins and notes from passengers. It was launched last April on all the company's intercontinental routes except those on Concorde. But British Airways has decided to launch the programme on its subsonic service, encouraged by the generosity of first and business class travellers.

The International Air Transport Association estimates that the 200 million people who travel with its members find themselves with £25 million in foreign coins and notes that they cannot exchange. Much of this is stored away, forgotten or lost.

British Airways expected only loose change to be left in the envelopes which are collected at the end of the flight. However, the airline says that many passengers have been more generous, leaving large notes and cheques.

"One passenger even left a cheque for \$1,000 during a special appeal for Rwanda last August. It was hardly what you call loose change," said Jackie Barrett, the airline's community relations officer.

The impetus for the scheme came from British Airways staff who heard that Qantas already ran a similar, successful scheme. All the donations are given to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which funds health and education projects worldwide.

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As leaders of the travel industry around the world meet to discuss the impact of tourism, Britain is missing

Why is abroad never our problem?

The annual mass migration by millions of package holidaymakers from their own homeland to someone else's may be bigger than ever this year. Nothing, it seems, will prevent the growth in demand for a week or two somewhere far away.

Governments know that they can benefit from the industry which is now either the biggest or the second-biggest in the world, depending on whose figures you believe. And those that aren't yet creaming off their share are determined to do so as soon as they can jump on the bandwagon.

Brazil, for example, has launched a campaign to persuade many more visitors to come from Britain (see below). President Fernando Cardoso complained that his huge country attracted no more foreign tourists than a tiny island

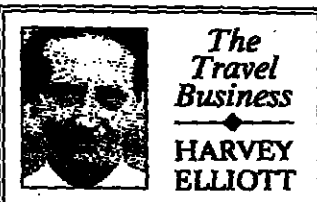
in the Caribbean. "We can do better than that," he said. Yet on the Canary Island of Lanzarote this week almost 1,000 delegates to a UN-backed conference organised by the World Tourism Organisation were not celebrating the growth, but worrying each other about what tourism was doing to so much of the world.

Many of those at the conference were head-in-the-cloud academics platonically repeating the "green" mantra about sustainable tourism and proving the adage: "I travel, you are a tourist, but we are concerned." Some, however, raised issues and problems which would have surely made the

leading British tour operators stop and think. The trouble was they were not there to hear. In all, 34 countries sent official government representatives to Lanzarote. But not Britain. It was as if, from Whitehall to the tour operators, there was a xenophobic belief that Britain did not need to listen.

But as *The Times* showed in its series on tourism last week, we have enormous difficulty coping with tourism at home — let alone the problems created by our package holiday-makers abroad.

Dr Tim Forsyth of the London School of Economics explained



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

the price and letting the long-term problems of overcrowding and pollution take care of themselves.

In Germany things are now somewhat different, and concerns over the damage done by tourism have led Europe's biggest tour operator, TUI, to appoint a director of environment.

Dr Wolf Michael Iwand has furiously battles with his financially-minded board colleagues. But he has won some, too. He persuaded them to pull out of a particular beach on the Greek island of Zakynthos because of endangered turtles, dropped golf balls, and Andalusia because of the drought, and insisted that German airlines

and individual tourists bring back all their rubbish from Madeira, Barbados and other islands rather than swamp the local refuse disposal system. He also insisted that companies produce their own environmental audit of each of the 150 destinations their clients visit each year.

During the five-day conference, which ends tomorrow, there was a lot of hot air but some real worries were raised, too. Are resorts becoming standardised around the world, so destroying local culture and leaving only imitation "folklore" events for the tourists, as Dr Alan Clarke

of Derby University believes? How is the world to cope if the one billion Chinese ever start to travel abroad?

Dr Iwand is adamant: "The tour operators have made the holiday-makers become used to taking nature for nothing and paying continuously less for bed and breakfast. It must be our concern in the tourist industry and promotional agencies to preserve the natural basic substance we are offering. Those who think this is financially, politically or technically not feasible forget the shocking calculations which serious environmental and resource economists are presenting us with today."

If only someone in a position to influence events from Britain had been there to hear the message. At least it would have appeared as if we care.

London 'shut by midnight'

A campaign to make London's nightlife a selling-point does not impress the locals, Marianne Curphey reports

A £500,000 campaign to promote London to foreign visitors as a 24-hour city has been greeted with scepticism by observers who claim that most of the capital shuts down at midnight.

Hoping to persuade rich young tourists to holiday in London, the British Tourist Authority presented the capital to the overseas market this week as "the city that never sleeps".

Central to the ambitious scheme is the appeal of the capital's music, fashion, shopping and eating facilities and theatres.

Anthony Sell, BTA chief executive, said he wanted Asian countries in particular to revise their image of London as "a grey, shabby, tired and old-fashioned place where everything closes at 10.30pm". They wanted to project London as an alternative destination to Australia, which is favoured by many young Asians.

He added: "Wealthy young travellers from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong are accustomed to a 24-hour lifestyle. They want a destination that is vibrant and lively."

Travel industry observers and Londoners, however, expressed reservations. Indeed, the *Wall Street Journal* Guide to Business Travel: Europe, published this month by Fodor, says that Britain's "deeply unpopular" alcohol licensing laws mean that the city closes early, and it laments: "After midnight even

central London can seem virtually deserted."

Though it criticises the capital for being "sprawling, expensive and crowded", it also praises it for being "one of the world's most alluring cities".

The Lonely Planet publishing company, which this month publishes a controversial new guide to Britain aimed at Australasian, Asian

and American travellers, says tourists looking for "all-night London" would be disappointed.

Jennifer Cox, Lonely Planet spokeswoman, said: "London not only sleeps, it goes to bed early and puts a Do not disturb sign on the door. Our strict licensing laws and inadequate late-night public transport are hardly an incentive to stay out in town, while the places to eat and drink in the small hours are seriously limited."

"If you do find a bar open in the small hours it usually

charges an entrance fee, sells expensive bottled beer and is unbearably crowded. There are a few late-night coffee houses but they are so busy you have to queue for 20 minutes to get in. At weekends the capital is full not only of young tourists but also young Londoners desperately wandering around trying to find somewhere to eat and drink."

Caroline Stacey, food editor of the London listings magazine *Time Out*, said tourist honeypots such as Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Islington and Camden lacked a choice of good-quality late-night bars and diners.

"Things are not as bad as they were five years ago but London could still be a lot better," she said. "There are places to drink late but some are really rather seedy, the capital could do with more glamorous 24-hour cafes."

Sheryl Garratt, editor of the style magazine *The Face*, said London "still has room for improvement". She added: "Our pub opening hours are absurd and it would be nice to have more places where you could get a coffee, food, or alcohol."

The BTA defended its campaign, saying it had lobbied "long and hard" for the relaxation of licensing laws. It has appointed representatives in Malaysia and Thailand, and is opening offices in Korea and Taiwan.

Mr Sell said: "The Asian youth market is worth £4 billion per annum in out-bound travel, but we face stiff competition from Australia."

And American travellers, says tourists looking for "all-night London" would be disappointed.

Over 65 per cent of my students have already had a career in business, archaeology, teaching, interpreting, journalism or acting, and the number of older people on the courses has definitely increased since the recession.

The course takes six months and is very tough because guides could be asked any question on the education system, the police force, history or the legal system," she said.

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Mother and child in Ecuador: after the first group built its own huts for visitors, ten more tribes are to follow suit

Tribes tackle tourism

Ecuadorian Indians are taking steps to safeguard their culture

Groups of tribesmen in the remote Ecuadorian rainforest have become tour operators in an attempt to save their homes and culture from extinction.

In an experiment which could become the model for similar developments around the world, the tribes have built huts near their villages for staff, budgets and foreign exchange; now I'm constantly thinking about how to entertain and inform my clients and tailor the tour."

Marion Stockley, a former personnel director with the Greater London Council, became a guide six years ago when the GLC was wound down in 1988. "From my office overlooking the Thames I could hear river-boat commentary and I always thought I could give a better tour than them," she said.

Mrs Stockley, from Ewell, Surrey, specialises in business and industry, and aviation — including tours for veteran air force personnel and overseas Second World War associations. "It's a mental and physical challenge. I love it."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

● Kathrine Prince: 0171-372 7578

danger," he said. "The oil industry had moved into the rainforest and, as well as felling the trees on which they rely, they were offering the tribesmen jobs which would have taken them away from their villages and destroyed their old way of life."

Now isolated groups along the banks of the Amazon are working together in spreading the load of their new venture in community tourism. The oilmen have been forced to leave the area and the Indians have even imposed a ban on hunting near forest trails so

that their visitors will be able to see the wildlife.

Mr Drummond's presentation of his work was one of the concrete suggestions to come out of the world conference on sustainable tourism being held in Lanzarote this week, and now the British Embassy in Quito has asked him to find similar projects that they might be able to support.

There has been tourism to the Ecuadorian Amazon for many years, but until now it has either been by backpackers or large outside tour operators, who have simply

pointed out the "colourful Indians" to their guests. The tribes felt insulted at being asked to use a blowpipe or pose for photographs constantly, and decided to control the tourists themselves.

Only 12 people at a time can be accommodated in the huts which, unlike the Indians' homes, have mattresses and mosquito nets. The Indians charge prices similar to the larger "eco-adventure" tour operators — about \$60 per person, per day.

But all the money raised goes to the local community, and now ten other tribes representing 3,000 people are hoping to join the scheme.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

High-flyers take tour jobs

Highly-qualified victims of the recession are taking up rewarding second careers as accredited guides

TOP City directors and professional people who left their jobs during the recession are carving out highly successful second careers driving rich American and Japanese tourists round Britain.

Their knowledge of London's legal and financial worlds, their grasp of British history and their language skills mean they can earn up to £250 a day.

Many have already enjoyed successful careers in business but have been asked to leave early or have chosen to retire in their fifties, and like the idea of a new profession which allows them to be self-employed.

Over the past five years an increasing number of mature, well-educated people have been applying for courses enabling them to become accredited guides, according to

Kathrine Prince, who trains nationally-recognised Blue Badge guides for the London Tourist Board.

"Over 65 per cent of my students have already had a career in business, archaeology, teaching, interpreting, journalism or acting, and the number of older people on the courses has definitely increased since the recession."

The course takes six months and is very tough because guides could be asked any question on the education system, the police force, history or the legal system," she said.

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Hotel scheme gets tough

Hotels must join BTA's Crown ratings or quit official guide

SOME of Britain's best known hotels were warned this week that they would be barred from advertising in the British Tourist Authority's official guide unless they joined its national grading scheme, Marianne Curphey writes.

Announcing a relaunch of its seven-year-old Crown scheme, the BTA said it would refuse to publicise any hotel which had not been inspected by its officers by next April.

At present, that would mean such popular hotels as the Savoy and the Ritz would be missed out of promotional literature produced by the BTA for domestic and foreign tourists.

The Crown scheme covers 17,000 of the 50,000 hotels and guest houses in Britain, but membership has not until now been obligatory for hotels advertising in BTA brochures.

The new rule will come into force next April, but already applies to hotels in Scotland. It follows a decision last month by the National Heritage sec-

retary, Stephen Dorrell, to throw his weight behind the Crown scheme after discovering that many tourists were confused by it. The scheme will not, however, be statutory and will run alongside existing classification by the AA and RAC.

Anthony Sell, BTA chief executive, said "one of Scotland's most famous luxury hotels — Gleneagles in Auchtermuchty, Perthshire, and the Turnberry in Ayrshire — had agreed to join the Crown scheme after some initial reluctance."

"Our research shows 20 per cent of overseas visitors who come to Britain do not like where they stay. With financial backing from the Government, we will be able to offer a guide which grades accommodation according to facilities and service for Britons and foreign tourists alike."

The BTA is now actively recruiting leading hotel chains to the scheme, including Hilton, Stakis and Best Western.

More help pledged from Rio tourist police to attract high-spending Britons

Brazil fights crime

BRAZIL has pledged to clean up its crime problem and make hotels safer for tourists as part of a drive to attract more Britons to the country.

Fewer than 30,000 British travellers went to Brazil last year — one third of them on business. Although Britons were far outnumbered by other Europeans, especially French and Spanish, and on average spent a shorter time in the country, the Brazilians are keen to attract them

because they spend almost 30 per cent more than other foreigners.

The *Fly to Brazil* campaign includes improving the performance of the tourist police, bilingual officers who operate 24 hours a day and provide assistance to visitors; setting up a community police force to tackle street crime in Rio; and

installing better lighting on Ipanema and Leblon beaches.

The focus of the campaign is Rio, still most popular with Britons, followed by Sao Paulo, Iguaçu Falls, the beaches of Bahia, the Amazon, Pantanal and Curitiba.

Keen to capitalise on the growing fashion for "eco-tourism", Brazil is also hoping

to offer tailor-made fishing, bird watching, cultural and study tours.

Tourism is now a priority industry. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has told tour operators. "The largest tropical country in the world, with over 5,000 miles of beautiful coastline, rich rainforests, hospitable people, great music, should not have numbers of foreign tourists similar to tiny islands of the Caribbean," he said.

Holidays for health

Bupa has ideas for those bored with beaches

BUPA, the private healthcare company, has launched a series of "healthy breaks" to appeal to holidaymakers who prefer to do more than just lie on a beach.

A total of 47 hotels in 20 countries are included in the new Equinox brochure, from country-house health farms in England to a selection of classic spa towns in Europe, fashionable Mediterranean resorts, Caribbean hideaways and American golfing clubs.

Each hotel offers a wide range of facilities and relaxing treatments from massage to aromatherapy, aqua aerobics, golf, swimming and tennis. Most of the hotels have a fully equipped gym.

The collection has also been inspired by a belief that many holidaymakers find having a holiday as stressful as the environment they are escaping from.

Andrew Perolls, head of Bupa travel services, said: "Holidays can be an excellent way of helping to alleviate stress and tiredness. But often just as we are beginning to relax it is time to leave for home. These days people want to try something new."

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Big clubs consider offering lifeline to Football League

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

A JOINT commercial venture with the Football Association and possibly the FA Premier League could lead to a much needed injection of funds for struggling Football League clubs.

Discussions are under way with the intention of boosting the income of all 92 professional football clubs and Andy Williamson, the assistant secretary, dismissed a suggestion that this could lead to the Football League being swallowed up by the authorities at Lancaster Gate.

There is no question of the Football League relinquishing its autonomy, Williamson said yesterday. "It is the 1990s league championship which is the focus of our attention and the focus of our commercial potential."

But there is concern in many quarters about the growing gap between the increasingly rich minority and the rest following the break-away, in 1992, of the Premier League. The situation will be exacerbated next month when four teams are relegated from the FA Cup and Premier League and only two are promoted. That will leave 72 clubs under the umbrella of the Football League and only 20 in the senior league, which enjoys a £305 million television deal with Sky.

That agreement expires in 1997, however, and the Premier League hierarchy is apparently ready to divert more money from the next contract towards helping smaller Football League clubs.

Williamson said: "The game does lose out because the different bodies act independently in commercial negotiations. Four years ago we

said in our discussion document 'One Game, One Team, One Voice' that it would make more sense for the game to talk about pooling resources. That's what we are doing now. Everybody is concerned to ensure that professional football is maintained across 92 clubs and to address the financial disparity. But whether we have a commercial partnership with the FA, the Premier League or both, we'll have to wait and see."

Spain and Bulgaria stayed on course for a place in the 1996 European Championships with convincing wins over Romania and Moldova respectively yesterday. Spain, the runaway leaders of group one, were 2-0 winners over Romania in Yerevan with goals from Jose Amavisca in the 49th minute, after a goalkeeping blunder by Alcazar, and Juan Antonio Paredes in the 63rd minute. Bulgaria won 3-0 in Moldova with Krasimir Balakov opening the scoring after 30 minutes and Hristo Stoichkov adding two more after the break.

Trevor Phillips, the FA's commercial director, said that the plan was to use the negotiating power of showpiece events, such as the FA Cup Final and England international fixtures, to help maximise income for Football League competitions. That, in turn, would provide a more secure future for clubs relegated from the Premiership.

In a further development yesterday, Endsleigh League clubs were warned that they

will not escape the net of inland Revenue investigators. If information is not volunteered soon, they could find the tax man delving into their affairs over the past six years.

The Revenue has already obtained reports from Premier League clubs covering payments and benefits paid to players and managers and transfers involving agents. Endsleigh League clubs were asked to produce similar information 18 months ago. Some have commissioned reports from independent accountants to show that their books are in order and the stragglers can now expect to be contacted.

Heather Taylor, senior tax investigations manager for the chartered accountants, Robson Rhodes, said: "We understand that Revenue investigators may look less favourably upon those clubs that have not yet come forward. Clubs that have to be directly approached by the Revenue may be facing the production of a six-year review, whereas those who take the voluntary route will be asked for a one-year report only."

Hopes are rising that a new buyer can be found to safeguard the future of Gillingham, the troubled Endsleigh League third division club. Tom Burton and John Arie, the joint receivers, are due to have talks today with one consortium on the verge of tabling a bid, and they expect to receive another offer by the end of the week.

The receivers have been running the club's affairs since January 7, and Burton said: "I would hope that a deal could be done by May 31—the deadline set by the Football League."

Meanwhile, Burton has met senior club officials—including Neil Smillie, the caretaker manager—to discuss budgets for next season. "Everything has been put in place to enable us to trade next season," he said.

Lincoln City, another third division club, also face an uncertain future after losses of up to £400,000 were revealed yesterday. "Trading losses are in excess of £350,000 and, by the end of the financial year, could be as much as £400,000," John Reames, the club chairman, said.

"Unless there is greater support from the city, the future of the club may be in question." Sam Ellis, the Lincoln manager, has been told to reduce his squad by up to seven players. Cuts to the youth training scheme and football in the community policy are also likely.



Keane faces surgery in the next few days after suffering damaged ligaments and a chipped bone in his ankle

Injury likely to preclude Keane

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ROY KEANE seems certain to be ruled out of Manchester United's plans for the FA Cup Final—but not because of disciplinary action. Keane is due to answer a disrepute charge and could have an automatic three-match ban extended by the Football Association.

Whatever the outcome, he has little chance of making the May 20 encounter with Everton, however. An X-ray has revealed both ligament damage and a chipped ankle bone and he faces surgery next week.

Keane was sent off after reacting violently to a tackle from the Crystal Palace captain, Gareth Southgate, in their FA Cup semi-final re-

play. Keane had had seven stitches inserted in a gash shortly before Southgate's challenge caught him on his already injured ankle.

The Republic of Ireland midfielder player was dismissed for stamping on Southgate. Darren Patterson, the Palace defender, also received the red card, for attacking Keane during the flare-up that followed.

Everton's leading scorer, Paul Rideout, is fighting a fitness battle to take his place in the club's most crucial week of the Premiership season. The Cup Final will be forgotten as the Merseysiders face three vital relegation games in eight days, with Rideout determined to play in all of them. He aims to recover from a knee injury in time for

the fixture on Saturday against Wimbledon.

He said: "The next week can decide our fate. The knee is still sore but the specialist has told me to carry on training and get on with it. Hopefully, it will be OK for Saturday and I will be available for selection. You can't afford to miss a game because everyone is keen to stake a claim for a place in the Cup Final."

One who will not be playing any games, however, is the Coventry City goalkeeper, Steve Ogilvie, who is out of for the rest of the season after breaking his ankle. Ogilvie, 37, was carried off 15 minutes from the end of the club's friendly at Northampton on Tuesday. Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, said yes-

terday: "His ankle is broken in two places. It is a blow to him but now he has to get himself ready to start next season and even at his age, I am confident he will do that."

"It is also a blow from the team point of view because he was playing well, but Jonathan Gould also did well when he deputised for Ogilvie earlier and it is up to him to prove he can do it again in the last four games."

Terry Yorath, the former Wales manager, is being lined up to coach the Lebanon side for the 1996 Pan Arab Games and Asian Games. The former Leeds United defender, who lost the Wales job after taking his country to within one match of the World Cup finals in the United States last year, said: "It's very promising."

England's juniors face hectic summer schedule

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND will field two separate under-21 teams in June because the European championship return fixture with Latvia clashes with the annual Toulon tournament.

Dave Sexton's side, which won 1-0 in Latvia on Tuesday, is five points clear of Portugal in qualifying group six. The Portuguese drew 1-1 with the Republic of Ireland.

On his return yesterday, Sexton said: "It's been a very good trip and, with Portugal being held by the Republic last night, we are now well and truly in the driving seat."

England have won the past two Toulon tournaments but their attempt to secure the title for a third time will take second place to the match against Latvia at Turi Moor, Burnley, on June 6.

"There will be two separate groups in June when Latvia visit us," Sexton said. "Most of this squad will be needed for the Latvia game, so the party for Toulon will give a chance for up-and-coming players."

"Then there's the seniors' four-nation tournament, so June is going to be busy."

The under-21s visit Portugal, who have a game in hand, in September and finish with a home game against Austria in November. Only one team qualifies for the two-legged quarter-finals.

While the goalscorer, Trevor Sinclair, of Queens Park Rangers, and Kevin Gallen, his team-mate at Loftus Road, stole the limelight against Latvia, Andy Booth, on his debut, surely did enough to ensure further under-21 duties this summer.

The Huddersfield striker was called up as a late replacement but came on for Gallen as a second-half substitute and set up Sinclair's goal.

"I am delighted to get my first cap," Booth said. "I had come here just to make the numbers up and thought the best I could hope for was to sit on the bench. Luckily I got the chance to come on and it's tremendous playing with all those top players."

With 27 goals for Huddersfield this season, Booth has been attracting the interest of FA Carling Premiership scouts, but he refuses to look further than his club's trip to Cambridge on Saturday.

"I think Huddersfield need one point to book our place in the play-offs," he said.

South Africa is sending its under-23 squad to play an Olympic Games qualifying match in Burundi on Sunday after receiving guarantees that the players will be safe. The South African Football Association had asked FIFA to switch the tie from Burundi because of ethnic violence.

European championship

Qualifying round

Group six: (1) N. Ireland, (2) Latvia, (3) Portugal, (4) Republic of Ireland, (5) Bulgaria, (6) Romania.

Group seven: (1) Armenia, (2) Spain, (3) Turkey, (4) Georgia, (5) Azerbaijan, (6) Ukraine.

Group eight: (1) France, (2) Slovakia, (3) Hungary, (4) Czech Republic, (5) Poland, (6) Germany.

Group nine: (1) Netherlands, (2) Belgium, (3) Greece, (4) Yugoslavia, (5) Slovenia, (6) Croatia.

Group ten: (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Wales, (4) Northern Ireland, (5) Finland, (6) Sweden.

Group eleven: (1) Denmark, (2) Norway, (3) Iceland, (4) Russia, (5) Kazakhstan, (6) Uzbekistan.

Group twelve: (1) Serbia, (2) Montenegro, (3) Bosnia and Herzegovina, (4) Macedonia, (5) Albania, (6) Kosovo.

Group thirteen: (1) Armenia, (2) Azerbaijan, (3) Georgia, (4) Ukraine, (5) Belarus, (6) Moldova.

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Group one hundred and twenty: (1) Armenia

Championship opens amid pressure for change while Ramprakash aims to make early running

County set must heed calls for radical reform

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THERE is nothing like adversity to concentrate the mind, and the outpouring of anguished theories that has followed one more Ashes failure ensures that this will be a cricket season like no other. The Britanic Assurance County Championship begins today and its every step will be monitored for signs of weakness. For once, the priority for many is not which teams win but how they play the game.

Losing heavily to an Australia side operating under a contrasting system, one that gives priority to the national team, has shaken and stirred the English game. Partly because domestic cricket depends so completely on international prosperity, but also because sports in Britain are increasingly competitive with each other, both for talented youth and commercial revenue, it is at last commonly agreed that the comfortable old county game is not acceptable.

No longer can one condone a system that encourages technical short-cuts in the quest for transient limited-overs success; that puts such a burden of play and travel on players that they have no time for proper training; that puts the provision of corporate hospitality above practice facilities; and that permits the has-beens and never-weres to do just enough in the far-end of a season to tag another year onto their contracts.

Reform is essential. Only its shape and effect remain to be decided, and everyone has a view on that. The county's 350 players have been battered by their association for opinions on the present and projected fixture framework. Every eligible cricketer has responded and the initial batch of replies are illuminating.

To a man, I understand, the

LAST SEASON'S FINAL TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	BT	PTS
Warwickshire	16	17	11	4	41	55
Leeds	16	17	8	7	42	50
Nottingham	17	17	8	5	39	51
Gloucestershire	17	17	7	5	43	51
Northants	17	17	9	5	28	53
Essex	17	17	7	5	32	53
Surrey	17	17	7	5	32	53
Sussex	17	17	7	5	32	53
Warwickshire	17	17	7	5	32	53
Leeds	17	17	7	5	32	53
Nottingham	17	17	7	5	32	53
Gloucestershire	17	17	7	5	32	53
Northants	17	17	7	5	32	53
Essex	17	17	7	5	32	53
Surrey	17	17	7	5	32	53
Sussex	17	17	7	5	32	53
Warwickshire	17	17	7	5	32	53
Leeds	17	17	7	5	32	53
Nottingham	17	17	7	5	32	53
Gloucestershire	17	17	7	5	32	53
Northants	17	17	7	5	32	53
Essex	17	17	7	5	32	53
Surrey	17	17	7	5	32	53
Sussex	17	17	7	5	32	53
Warwickshire	17	17	7	5	32	53
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REVIEW

with cream cheese to make that pudding. *Coronary à la Confiture*. I think he called it.

But de Pomiane is emerging as a pleasant enough fellow — even if he is something of a culinary fraud by today's exacting gastronomic standards. Last week he warned us that his ten minutes did not include boiling water, melting butter or heating the grill. Last night, the exclusions extended to not making garlic butter, not stuffing it into his escargots, not grating the cheese for his sauce mornay and not making his own vinaigrette. Still, it does make you wonder how long it took de Pomiane to whip up his *Coronary à la Confiture*. Happenings was a Baby Belling and the way to a woman's heart was a thinly sliced tomato. With basil leaves, of course.

Finally a word or two about **Cardiac Arrest** (BBC I), which was one of the sharpest, funniest and original dramas to hit our screens last year. What happened?

Matthew Bond

the misleading impression that events that happened some time ago are still happening now. This may or may not be the case, but this programme had no evidence to support either. It just liked to pretend it had.

For goodness' sake, the tunnel shuttle service opened a full four months ago. What we would like to know is how fares the battle now, not how it fared before one side was even up and running. What

CHANNEL 4

30 Spiff and Hercules (7192447)
30 The Big Breakfast (119923)
30 You Bet Your Life (n) (s) (64335)
30 FILM: Boys Will Be Boys (12193, b/w) starring W. H. Ayer. Vintage comedy about a schoolteacher who uses forged qualifications in order to become the headmaster of a prestigious school. Directed by William Sealandine (1848718)
30 Battle For The Trees A documentary investigating the dispute between multi-national logging companies and local conservationists over the felling of vast tracts of forests on Canada's Vancouver Island (n) (Teletel) (6892195)
30 Bigger Is Better Animation (3160279)
30 House To House Political magazine (44331)
30 Sesame Street En Vogue and Carol Channing (n) (Teletel) (20992) **30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (n) (s) (65082843)
35 Peta Smith Specialty (b/w) A 1947 short short about nasty neighbours (5102337)
35 FILM: Three Coins In The Fountain (1954) starring Dorothy McGuire, Jean Peters and Maggie McManis. An Oscar-winning light romance about three American women in Rome who fall in love with Clifton Webb, Rossano Brazzi and Louis Jourdan. Directed by Ivan Nogueroles (737468)
30 The Great Outdoors (n) (Teletel) (s) (517)
30 Fifteen-To-One (Teletel) (s) (911)
30 Ricki Lake A search for America's sexiest woman (Teletel) (s) (6860529)
35 TennyTons Classic cartoons (303824)
30 The Cosby Show American domestic comedy (n) (Teletel) (176)
30 Saved By The Bell: The College Years Campus comedy. (Teletel) (758)
30 Channel 4 News (Teletel) (s) and weather (134973)
30 The Slot Wives 'video soapbox' (125669)

Greg Dyke plays the game (8.00pm)
(2156)

00 CHOICE: Fair Game: Thin Ice. (Teletext) (1502)

30 Food File The penultimate edition of the magazine dedicated to the maters concerning eating. (Teletext) (1502)

00 Trial and Error: The Case of Jason Warr. David Jessel uncovers convincing new evidence which suggests that the 17-year-old Jason Warr was wrongly convicted of the murder of an insurance salesman on election day in 1982. (Teletext) (249)

00 FILM: The Amy Fisher Story (1992) starring Drew Barrymore. A fact-based drama about a rebellious teenager accused of the attempted murder of her lover's wife. Directed by Andy Tennant. (Teletext) (52253)

50 The Kids In the Hall A showcase for Canadian comedians. (Teletext) (5) (43324)

45am Darwin. Peter Greenaway's personal profile of Charles Darwin. (Teletext) (18285)

45 FILM: The Other Victim (1981) starring William Devane and Jennifer O'Neill. A drama about the emotional effect on a man of his wife's rape. Directed by Noel Black (813080). Ends at 3.30

SATELLITE

11.00 AM *The Small World* (1948) 1.00
A man and his disabled brother inventing
a way to communicate on the run (1956-65)
1.00 *Cartoon* (1959-1965) 1.00
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SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 27 1995

Progress of Hicks halted as rival basks in semi-final limelight

Bond pockets
gain from
early exchanges

By Phil Yates

NIGEL BOND, one of the most anonymous of the world's leading 16 players, earned a rare appearance in the limelight by confidently establishing a 6-1 lead over Andy Hicks in the semi-finals of the Embassy world snooker championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Bond, who turned professional six years ago after winning the English amateur championship, has been highly regarded in the game's inner circle for some time but, with a few exceptions, he has been one of the game's supporting cast.

A one-table set-up at the Crucible is the perfect stage on which to display a generally unappreciated ability. Bond seized his chance impressively as he built a commanding advantage over the surprise package of the event.

Hicks, with the self-assurance that is an inevitable by-product of victories over such luminaries as Steve Davis, Willie Thorne and Peter Ebdon in the previous rounds, could not have wished for a better start to the best-of-31-frame marathon which reaches its conclusion tomorrow.

Trailing 66-24 in the opening frame, Hicks ignored the cue-ball being tucked under the baulk cushion to pot a long red which launched the 42 clearance that tied the scores at 66-66 and necessitated the black being respotted.

A weak safety shot from Bond afforded Hicks the opening he needed and, after such a demoralising introduction to the most important match of his career, Bond could easily have collapsed.

Instead Bond, 29, a former civil servant, from Darley Dale, finished a satisfying afternoon's work by playing six frames in which he hardly committed an unforced error of significance.

Bond's purple patch began when he won the second frame after Hicks failed to escape from a snooker on the yellow, yielding a free ball.

From 1-1, Bond, the world No 11, reproduced the competent break-building which was the decisive factor in his unexpected 13-11 second-round victory over Alan McManus, the sixth seed.

Runs of 61, 64 and 63 carried Bond 3-1 ahead but Hicks, who showed he could overcome early reverses by recovering from the loss of the first three frames against Ebdon in the quarter-finals, had a gilt-edged opportunity to win the next.

Leading 38-33, Hicks jawed the most straightforward of short-range reds with the colours invitingly placed. Bond cleared to the pink for 4-1 and.

DETAILS

Semi-final
N Bond (Eng) leads A Hicks (Eng) 6-1.
Frame scores (Bond first): 66-72, 69-39, 74-18, 127-0, 58-38, 61-47, 70-45.
Match resumes 10.30am today.

for the first time in the tournament, his inexperienced opponent looked rattled.

Bond continued to apply the pressure in the sixth frame and displayed no signs of surrendering the initiative. At 17-47, Bond powered in a difficult long red and proceeded to fashion a 54 clearance for 5-1. Throughout, his positional play was of the highest quality apart from dropping short on the green and having to pull off a delicate thin cut at dead weight.

It was so different from their only previous meeting when Bond, shackled by his customary first-round nervousness, lost 5-4 to Hicks in the 1993 Dubai Classic.

Bond also won the closing

frame of the session despite suffering a potentially expensive and unfortunate run of the balls. At 44-0, and on a 43 break, Bond potted a red and intentionally took the cue-ball into the pack at speed to develop more.

In so doing Bond succeeded in splitting the clustered reds far and wide but he simultaneously potted the pink. Hicks responded with a run of 39 but he overcut a pink to a middle pocket and, for the third consecutive frame, Bond clinically cleared to pink.

While Bond did little wrong, many were surprised that Hicks produced a standard well below that of his initial three matches. However, it is understandable that the 21-year-old left-hander from Tavistock should begin to feel the pressure associated with reaching the later stages of the game's blue riband event.

Hicks, attempting to become the first Crucible debutant to reach the final since Terry Griffiths in 1979, must also beat Bond in order to secure a place in the top 16 next season and thereby gain the considerable financial perks that go with it.

In the other semi-final Stephen Hendry, the defending champion, renews his seemingly annual Crucible rivalry with Jimmy White. The two have met in the past three finals with Hendry prevailing by scores of 18-11, 18-5 and last year, 18-17.

Taking into account their respective performances in reaching the last four, it is difficult to imagine White posing too many problems for the Scot unless he makes a wholesale improvement in every department. William Hill, the bookmaker, agrees; it has installed Hendry as a 4.0 favourite to win the title for the fourth successive year and collect a record £190,000 first prize.



Hicks lines up a shot during his semi-final with Bond at the Crucible yesterday

Union in need
of unity to
tackle leagueDavid Hands on the dangers
for rugby's amateur code in
the sudden wealth of its rival

ERIC WHITEHEAD

At some stage, and sooner rather than later, those who run rugby union must seriously consider the strengths of their game and put an end to the incoherent responses that have characterised the period since the sale of rugby league just over a fortnight ago.

Those responses have come largely from those nearest to the overseas heartland of rugby league: Australia and New Zealand. The Australian Rugby Union (ARU) seeks to protect its assets by putting its players under contract, while in New Zealand John Hart, the former All Blacks coach, has given his imprimatur to a professional provincial tournament planned for next year and backed by pay television.

The impression created is of a desperate attempt to compete with the millions that News Limited — the Australian arm of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times — is putting into rugby league, both in Australasia and in Europe. If rugby union tries to do so, it will offer itself up piecemeal to the highest bidder and will concede the strong foundations that have made it globally so much more successful than its rival code.

Sadly there is disunity in rugby union's world leadership, each of the game's leading countries taking a different view of what needs to be done to safeguard its interests. "I regard the southern hemisphere countries as panicking," Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, said yesterday. "They are paranoid about the possibility of losing players to rugby league, which is something we have never been too concerned about."

Wood shrugs his shoulders at the prospect of England players succumbing to offers from rugby league. "That would be their decision, but the latest rugby league developments, which will have the effect of shrink-

ing their game, must reduce the number of players they require," he said. "If we try to compete with them, we are in serious danger. We have a marvellous opportunity to stand up and declare that we are a highly successful global recreational game and competition does not trouble us."

It is claimed in Auckland that players could earn £22,000 a year from a provincial tournament involving six composite sides from New Zealand and two from Australia. It intended to replace the existing Super 10 tournament. The proposal has the blessing of the New Zealand union's 27 provincial chairmen.

It is questionable how many members of the home unions' World Cup squads would be of anything other than short-term interest to rugby league. Nevertheless, the northern hemisphere must get its house in order with the home unions, in particular, agreeing a way forward for the sport in advance of the meeting of the International Rugby Football Board in August, when all barriers to players earning money off the field are likely to come down.

At much the same time, between August 19 and 27, the first seeds of a European club competition may be planted in the unlikely setting of Leiden. The Dutch university city yesterday unveiled plans for Euro-Rugby Cup 95, involving Wasps, Swansea, Boroughmuir, Blackrock College, Toulouse, Treviso and a seventh overseas club (Cardiff, Orrell and Milan have all expressed interest), the event to be hosted by DIOK, the Dutch champions.

This is not the tournament envisaged by the leading two clubs in England, Bath and Leicester, but it has official sanction and the advantage of offering realistic competition before the opening of each union's domestic season. Ultimately, the Dutch hope to attract the cup winners in eight European countries.

Defender trials get extra time

By Our Sports Staff

THE America's Cup defender trials off San Diego are certain to be decided on the water rather than in the committee room. Overwhelmed by the unfriendly weather and a myriad of rules, the organisers announced yesterday that the unusual three-yacht trials would be extended, if necessary.

The question of how the defender would be determined arose on Tuesday when Dennis Conner's do-or-die race with America's mostly women's team was postponed because of lack of a breeze.

The race was rescheduled for Wednesday, weather permitting. If it goes ahead and Conner sails *Stars & Stripes* to victory, he is in the America's Cup finals for the sixth time in his 21-year Cup career. Conner has won the trophy four times.

However, had the original programme been adhered to, Wednesday would have been the last day of racing and there was always the possibility of another day with too little wind, or a three-way tie if *Mighty Mary* got the better of Conner.

After a meeting with repre-

sentatives from the three syndicates, the defence committee decided to invoke a rule that allows for modification of a round because of weather problems.

Until the meeting, one of the scenarios being mooted if no racing was possible yesterday, was that Conner would be declared the official defender.

The present position is that *Stars & Stripes* and *Young America* are tied with five points while *Mighty Mary* has four. If *Mighty Mary* beats *Stars & Stripes*, the round will be tied and *Mighty Mary* and *PACT 95's Young America* will have a sudden-death sail-off.

"There were all these permutations and combinations, so many of them. I don't think we could quite fathom all of them that might occur," Chuck Nicholls, the America's Cup '95 president, said. "This one is the latest out of the bunch, caused by the number of days that we haven't been able to race."

"We could not have expected such an absolute close competition where we get down to the final day, with everybody very close to being tied."

The start of Tuesday's race

was delayed because the wind was blowing at only three-to-five knots. The breeze failed to fill in at the required five knots, and the race was abandoned at the 3pm deadline.

It was the eighteenth time in 72 racing days since mid-January the weather had failed to cooperate. There have been five postponements alone in the last 14 days. Many observers believe that things started to go wrong when the committee, led by the former club commodore, Wythe Cable, allowed Conner to replace

a damaged keel on his yacht during a "no change" period in the semi-finals, without consulting Conner's two rivals or allowing them to appeal to the international jury.

Bill Koch, the litigious multi-millionaire backing the women's challenge, immediately cried foul and began court proceedings to sue the club. That forced Cable to back down and the jury decided that Conner had been wrong.

In the compromise that followed, all three defence yachts were allowed to continue through to the Citizen Cup finals despite the fact that Conner's yacht had been knocked out in the semi-finals.

Most thought that Conner would be quickly eliminated but although it is generally agreed that *Stars & Stripes* is the slowest yacht, Conner and his crew have won all but two of their races since being granted a reprieve.

All the while, Team New Zealand continues to tune up its speedy *Black Magic 1*, which will try to win the silver trophy when the best-of-nine finals begin May 6.

Conner, reprieved



Conner: reprieved

Dowie lifts Northern Ireland hopes

By Our Sports Staff

IAIN DOWIE's second-half penalty kept alive Northern Ireland's hopes of qualifying for the European championship next summer as Bryan Hamilton's team overcame Latvia 1-0 in Riga. The Crystal Palace striker picked himself up after being fouled to convert his fifth international goal after 69 minutes.

Dowie, who also struck in Northern Ireland's draw in the Republic last month, was moving on to Gillespie's low centre and appeared sure to score before the defender, Troicki, clipped his heels. Northern Ireland, seldom playing with any great style, narrowly deserved the points after a sturdy performance lit up

by Gillespie's showing on the right wing, but more typified by the determined displays of McDonald, the captain, and Colin Hill in midfield.

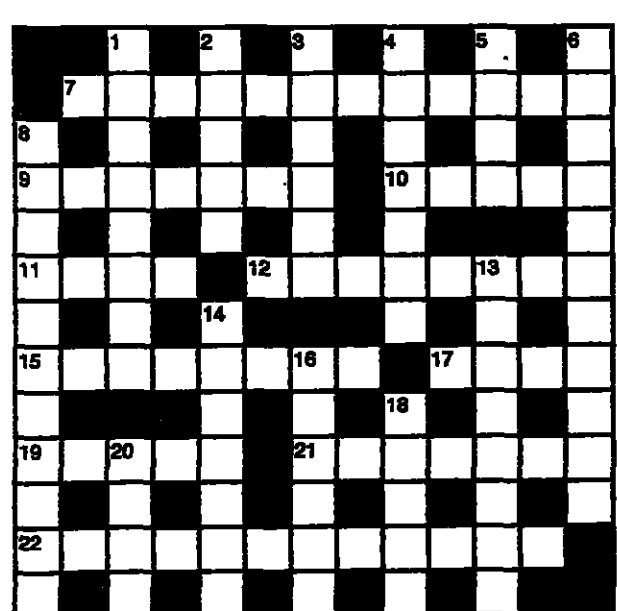
Nerves might have been less frayed if Wilson's disallowed strike in the twelfth minute had been allowed to stand. But Dowie, who had created the chance, was blown up for a foul. Just two minutes later, a fine ball along the right wing from Hunter allowed Gillespie to beat his man down the line and send over a cross. The ball was met by a firm header from Dowie, which was brilliantly parried by the goalkeeper, Laizans.

Ireland were enjoying their best spell as Gillespie ran more than half the length of the pitch to pull back a cross which Dowie

just missed. McDonald, however, required treatment on three occasions for fouls from Teplov as Latvia attempted to add some muscle to their challenge.

Fettis, the Northern Ireland goalkeeper, had to be on his toes to deny Yeliseyev after Astafiev's shot had been deflected as the home side pushed forward. Indeed, Latvia dominated possession in the second half and their best chance arrived after 58 minutes when Butkus slid the ball to the unmarked Yeliseyev, but Hill recovered with a fine tackle.

Gillespie, booked after 65 minutes, was substituted towards the end as Ireland got men behind the ball. And it took a fine tackle from Worthington on Babichev late in the game to secure the match.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 456

ACROSS

- 7 Trusted, older leader (6-6)
- 9 Detached defensive position (7)
- 10 Frighten off (from) (5)
- 11 Enthusiasm (4)
- 12 Three-wheel vehicle (8)
- 15 Decide ahead of evidence (8)
- 17 Remove, lose skin (4)
- 19 Period of popularity (5)
- 21 16C Spanish painter from Crete (2,5)
- 22 Canada island, province (12)

DOWN

- 1 Computer, military, kitchen equipment (8)
- 2 Call loudly (5)
- 3 Impact hole (6)
- 4 Bridge across valley (7)
- 5 Bankrupt: carving (4)
- 6 Mary Ann Evans' pseudonym (6,5)
- 8 Irregular stonework for path (5,6)
- 13 Am. Indian people: Wyoming capital (8)
- 14 Coin-operated record-player (7)
- 16 Spinach, cabbage, etc (6)
- 18 Nimble (5)
- 20 Stare stupidly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 455

- ACROSS: 1 Molester 5 Mocha 8 Babes 9 Cry wolf 10 Telenor 11 Pity 13 Rule Britannia 16 Hiss 17 Act of God 20 De facto 21 Epsom 22 Solar 23 Surgeon
- DOWN: 1 Mobster 2 Label 3 Test-tube 4 Victoria Cross 5 Mayo 6 Oxonian 7 Huffy 12 Saboteur 14 Lustful 15 Abdomen 16 Hades 18 Geste 19 Scar

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